Daily Report

Latin America

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Central American Presidential Summit Concludes

'War Issue' Creates Tension

PA1101141891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Maria Cortina]

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 11 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Diplomatic sources have told NOTIMEX that the Salvadoran war issue has generated disagreement among the Central American presidents and has created a tense atmosphere at the first working session of the summit in Mexico.

According to reports, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has asked his colleagues to issue a joint document condemning the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and demanding that it declare an immediate cease-fire.

The sources explained that Cristiani's proposal was intended to turn the Tuxtla Gutierrez summit into an instrument of the political-diplomatic war that the Salvadoran Government and guerrilla movement are waging, along with the one they are fighting on the battlefield.

The sources added that Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas rejected Cristiani's proposal, arguing that a violent statement would not contribute anything to the dialogue process in which the two sides are involved. The information provided by the anonymous source contradicts what Cristiani said upon his arrival in Tuxtla. Cristiani said that the war in El Salvador would not be a leading topic of discussion on the summit agenda. According to the draft of the summit's final document, to which NOTIMEX has had access, the presidents express their concern about the continuing war in El Salvador, but they neither condemn the guerrilla movement nor demand a ceasing of hostilities.

Other sources close to the summit have commented that the presidents refused to demand that the guerrilla movement declare a cease-fire, because they are convinced that the armed struggle is an element of pressure that favors the negotiations. The source indicated that if the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) suspends its armed actions, the Army and the government's most conservative groups would interpret it as a triumph and would refuse to negotiate on the rebels' basic demands.

The most controversial topic of the talks that began in April 1990 under the auspices of the United Nations has been the future of the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

Salinas Backs Integration

PA1101151191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1101 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico, 11 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said today that this is an opportune time for his country and Central America to join efforts and prepare a brighter future for their people. Salinas said that the Mexican Government appreciates the Central American presidents' efforts for peace and cordiality.

During a dinner to honor the presidents of Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras, the Mexican president said that without peace there cannot be development in Central America, and that development is likewise necessary to consolidate peace. "Peace can be attained only by respecting the sovereignty of nations and peoples, without restrictions," he said.

He also said that Mexico will support the Central American countries and will contribute—without meddling and to the extent that these countries request it—to a dialogue to attain peace and development because these two elements are inseparable.

In his message, Salinas pointed out that the accords to be signed will reinforce the new ties among these nations and lay the foundations for renewed friendship and firm commitments. The accords, he added, will make it possible to increase Central American exports to Mexico and promote investments and cooperation for the supply of crude oil.

Salinas said that if the Central American countries want to be properly incorporated into the transformation process underway in the world, a decisive response from each of these nations will be required and the active voice of the entire region must be heard. Regarding the economic cooperation between Mexico and Central America, Salinas said that several mechanisms have been created to deal with the problem posed by the Central American countries' debts with Mexico.

He said that Mexico's cultural and historical identification with the Central American countries should serve as the basis for a true integration. He pointed out that joining efforts will strengthen these nations and that the new impetus toward cooperation can ensure a better role for Latin America in the world.

Referring to the conflict in the Persian Gulf, Salinas said that the world panorama has been darkened with the threat of an armed confrontation. Nevertheless, he said, "we still hope that dialogue and diplomacy will lead to the settling of disagreements."

Calderon on Free Trade, Oil

PA1201043991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Mexico), 11 Jan (EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon said today that it

will take many years, perhaps 10, 12, or 15 years, to organize a real free trade zone in America.

After the Mexican and Central American presidents' meeting in Tuxtla Gutierrez, which had the Mexican proposal to set the bases for a regional free trade zone as one of its main objectives, Calderon stated that we cannot say, from one day to another, that we will have a free trade zone tomorrow.

He added that industries in each country need time, especially in small countries such as ours, to be fully reorganized to be able to enter a much larger market, such as the Mexican one.

At the end of the two-day summit, the Mexican and Central American presidents signed a complementary economic agreement. According to the presidents, this agreement will allow them to gradually organize a free trade zone, which is to start operating no later than 31 December 1996.

The Tuxtla Gutierrez declaration did not give details on the points of the agreements and the latter has not been given to the media yet.

We all agree that the objective of the agreement must be reached but we have some years ahead of us to determine procedures and details, Calderon noted. He added that Venezuela and Colombia have been invited to participate in the free trade agreement. All the countries in the pact will have the same conditions. However, all the presidents have expressed solidarity with the country that has the most critical economic situation: Nicaragua.

We have requested that preferential treatment be given to Nicaragua due to its difficult situation, Calderon stated. He also highlighted the importance of the petroleum aid offered by Mexico and Venezuela to Central America.

Both countries, he said, are showing the industrialized world how to cooperate with countries in the developing world.

During the summit, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo, who attended the summit as an observer, offered new possibilities of refinancing the Central American countries' petroleum bill. Mexico and Venezuela supply practically all the crude oil that Central America consumes. The Isthmian countries disbursed more than $700 million to foot last year's petroleum bill.

Concerning the Persian Gulf conflict, Calderon said it will bring serious economic problems to Central America if it continues for some time. He added, however, that these problems will be minimized thanks to the support given by Mexico and Venezuela.

He also stressed that in the case of war, human lives are the most important factor to be considered.

The economic consequences will bring difficulties, but these will be resolved in some way. However, there is no way we can solve the problem if millions of people die, the Costa Rican president said.

Asked if there had been differences between the presidents at the summit on the Salvadoran situation, Calderon stated that there had been no differences, absolutely none, because we want peace and we all want the dialogue to continue.

Calderon also reported that Panama is still not part of the Central American Group and that this country has been invited to their meetings as an observer for the time being. According to the Costa Rican president, Panama has still not decided to join the Central American group.

Summit Ends; Accords Signed

PA1101225291 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 2113 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The first Mexican and Central American presidents' summit has ended. The presidents are having lunch at the Government House, and after lunch they will begin to leave for their respective countries. Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will see them off at the airport.

We want to note two agreements that stand out from the others that have been reached here. The first is an economic and financial agreement that calls for the Central American countries to continue purchasing Mexican and Venezuelan oil under favorable conditions. The second agreement, which was announced by Jaime Serra, the Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, concerns a decision by the presidents to speed up negotiations for a free trade agreement that would be implemented by 1996 at the latest.

Accords Noted

PA1201001091 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 2103 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Report by Agustin Granados from Government Palace in Tuxtla Gutierrez—live]

[Text] The summit of Mexican and Central American presidents has ended. Undoubtedly, it can be termed successful. As a result of the summit, depending on how it is viewed—there will be a free trade agreement between Central American countries and our country.

By 1996, at the latest, we will be integrated in a free trade zone. The six presidents at the summit reached an agreement on this today. This agreement will have a special clause that was termed here as selective reciprocity or asymmetrical reciprocity. The idea is to give free access to the economies while taking into account the level of development of each country's economy.

We can add that... [changes thought] This was announced by Secretary Jaime Serra Puche moments

ago. The Mexican secretary of commerce and industrial development was accompanied by the finance secretary who made another important announcement. Another result of the summit was the continuance of the San Jose Pact, but with a new modality: 80 percent of the oil bill that each nation used to pay and that was deposited in the respective central banks will now involve co-financing by the International Development Bank and continue to be chaneled for projects that each Central American country wants.

Between the second and third session Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier held a news conference. As for the supply of oil, he said that Mexico and Venezuela are setting an example on how the underdeveloped nations should be helped.

The great hope of this meeting, as we all know, was a free trade agreement, which is already beginning to materialize. At the end of the summit, a few minutes ago, the presidents signed the Declaration of Tuxtla Gutierrez. They agreed that in view of the current world situation, it is more important than ever to intensify Latin American integration and turn it into a broad process to deepen the cooperation ties and an efficient instrument of its harmonious development.

The summit demanded from the international community a greater support for Central America. The presidents agreed that the Initiative for the Americas proposed by President Bush is a new focus on hemispheric relations and believe that it is important to introduce more specific elements to give it more definition.

As for the debt, which causes imbalances for all the countries, the six presidents at the summit said that bilateral negotiations could result in a solution. Perhaps most important, the presidents at the summit recognized that the consolidation of peace and strengthening of democracies will only be possible through economic revival, and above all, social justice.

There are still many people on the streets commenting on the summit. The Central American presidents will soon return to their countries with good—we would say magnificent—documents in their briefcases. The summit concluded and there is much hope; hope for this free trade alliance that will make us freer and stronger.

Venezuela, Cuba To Keep Embassies in Iraq Open

PA1301153391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (EFE)—Venezuela and Cuba are the only Latin American countries that have decided to keep their embassies in Baghdad open, two days before the expiration of the deadline the United Nations has given to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

We will not leave Iraq, no matter what happens, Antonio Diaz Medina, second secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Iraq, told EFE. Rivarola [name as received], the Argentine charge d'affaires in Baghdad, said today that he will leave Iraq if the situations worsens, but he declined to explain if he would leave before 15 January, when the deadline given to Iraq stated in UN Security Council Resolution 678 expires.

Brazilian Charge d'Affaires Rene Lochan said that the military attache, his aide, the first and second secretaries, and the ambassador departed yesterday. I am working on visas for two employees of the Mendes Junior Construction Company and the embassy's cook; when I am finished I will depart by land for Turkey, he told EFE. The Brazilian diplomat will follow the developments from his country's embassy in Cairo and will return to Baghdad if the situation improves.

Venezuelan Ambassador to Iraq Rafael Monsalve left on 11 January when he completed his tour, but the Venezuelan mission indicated it is expecting the new envoy to arrive on 14 January. All other Latin American diplomats who had embassies in Iraq have already left, and so have many representatives from other nations of the world.

The remaining six U.S. diplomats left Baghdad yesterday, and the Spanish ambassador did so on 11 January. Except for the Arab countries and Cuba, most foreign diplomats accredited in Baghdad have left the country, including most of the Soviets, although about 300 experts volunteered to stay to work in the country.

Cuba, a member of the UN Security Council, condemned the invasion of Kuwait and supported the resolution imposing a trade embargo on Iraq. However, it voted against Resolution 678, which authorized the use of force if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January. For that reason, it has maintained its assistance to Iraq only on health matters, and 200 people—doctors and nurses—are working at several places in the country.

All of them volunteered to stay. We believe that at this time it is very important for doctors to be prepared for any emergency, Antonio Diaz noted. Heading the Cuban mission is Ambassador Juan Aldama. Approximately 20 employees are still working in the mission building.

Perez Tour Said Suspended; Gulf Crisis Cited

PA1301223391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2026 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] San Jose, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The acting Costa Rican foreign minister, Hernan Castro, reported today that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez suspended a tour scheduled for this week through Central America in view of the possibility of a war in the Persian Gulf.

In a press communique, Castro explained that Perez "suspended his scheduled tour of Central America in view of the worsening situation in the Persian Gulf."

Perez' visit to San Jose—scheduled for 15 January—was to be the last stop of his tour through the isthmus after visiting El Salvador on 12 January and attending the inaugural of the new president of Guatemala, Jorge Serrano, on 14 January.

Tuesday, 15 January, is the deadline given by the United Nations for Iraq to evacuate Kuwait. If Iraq does not evacuate Kuwait, it will be removed by any means, including force.

However, the Venezuelan president "will meet with his Central American colleagues in Guatemala. They will exchange points of view on topics of common interest and will plan his visit to the countries of the isthmus," said Castro.

Perez was going to make official Venezuela's entry into the Central American Economic Integration Bank as extra-regional partner with a $127 million contribution.

Venezuela is a member of OPEC, like Iraq and Kuwait, and along with Mexico, also has been supplying fuel to Central America and part of the Caribbean under favorable conditions since 1980, when the "San Jose Pact" was signed.

Perez was also going to meet with Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon to analyze the Persian Gulf situation and the fuel supply to Central America.

Weekly Roundup on Regional Drug Seizures

PA1401022391

[Editorial report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to regional drug trafficking from 7 to 13 January 1991.

Mexico

Federal Judicial Police have found 585 kg of marijuana hidden in the double floor of a cargo truck in Tamaulipas. Two suspects were arrested in connection with this. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2034 GMT 12 Jan 91)

On 10 January, narcotics agents of Tamaulipas' Federal judicial police found a Colombian plane in Abazolo. It was completely destroyed and the burned bodies of three people were found inside. In addition, the agents found several packages containing a total of 180 kg of cocaine paste. (Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jan 91)

Panama

Special narcotics forces' agents have seized a cocaine shipment destined for the United States and valued at more than $50,000. The drug was found aboard an Antiguan-registered ship whose captain contacted the Judicial Technical Police to report that six stowaways were suspected to have drugs with them. The ship was waiting to go through the canal when the arrests were made. The suspects, all Colombians, were: Luis Benitez, Walter Ramirez, Heberth Quinones, Vivas Ferney, Nestor Zamora, and Luis Mosquera. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 8-a)

Customs officials have seized two kg of cocaine, estimated to be valued at $64,000, from Ivan E. Sempris Castaneda, a Panamanian who was trying to take the drug to the United States. Castaneda was arrested as he tried to board a plane for Houston at Tocumen International Airport. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jan 91 p 8-a)

Customs General Director Rodrigo Arosemena has disclosed that a shipment of approximately 161 kg of cocaine was seized at customs installations in Bahia Las Minas. The drug was hidden in a shipment destined for New York, via Miami, aboard a U.S.-registered ship under the name Senator. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 91 pp a-1, a-10)

Cuba

Fidel Castro Interviewed on Persian Gulf Crisis

FL1201142591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by Julia Osendi and Oscar Suarez at the event held to mark the second anniversary of the Jose Marti Contingent in Havana on 11 January—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] In any case, a war there would be crazy. It is also unnecessary. In my opinion, it would be taking away the real possibilities for peace that exist.

[Osendi] You think they exist?

[Castro] Yes, they do. Real possibilities for peace exist if they do not rush into war. Time is passing and the situation [word indistinct] are very dangerous, but you cannot guarantee that it will occur on the 15th. Right now, important negotiations are being carried out by the UN secretary general. He left for Baghdad last night. Today he is to be in Geneva, tomorrow, Saturday, he will be in Baghdad. Perhaps he will stay there for two days. The thing is, today is 11 January, then two days in Baghdad; possibly on 13 or 14 January [he will be back] in the United Nations. I do not think there is enough time for these peace negotiations to be as effective as they could...

[Osendi, interrupting] It is too late.

[Castro] It is not too late in the sense....[changes thought] It is an emergency situation, if you will. Because the United Nations made an effort, and the UN secretary general has made an effort, but he is not to blame for all the times various peace initiatives were blocked there, including Cuba's initiatives, and the initiatives presented by Cuba, Colombia, Malaysia and Yemen, there. They were proposed successively, and they sought precisely a possibility for peace at that time. So the secretary general is not to blame. He is making an effort. I hope this is not the final effort for peace...

[Osendi, interrupting] The U.S. Senate approved....

[Castro, interrupting] I did not hear the news this morning on how the debate turned out.

[Osendi, interrupting] They were meeting, but they approved....

[Castro, interrupting] The issue is not whether it approved [the war] but how the debate take place, what was discussed, what were the arguments, [words indistinct]....

[Osendi, interrupting] It gave Bush full power.

[Suarez] Do you believe that efforts being made by Perez de Cuellar.... [changes thought] Three simultaneous efforts are being made at this time...

[Castro, interrupting] Undoubtedly, it would have been very difficult for the Senate not to approve....

[Osendi, interrupting] It did approve.

[Castro] He was urging [words indistinct] and there was a need for the [U.S.] Government to have the support of the Senate. I was almost sure that the Senate would approve it but I have not seen the contents of the debates, what arguments were used, how it went, how the senators voted [words indistinct]...

[Osendi, interrupting] The U.S. people do not want another Vietnam.

[Castro] I do not know how the vote in the [U.S.] Congress went. I have no news about it. Do you know about it?

[Suarez] What we know is that the Senate supports the UN resolution. The Senate....

[Castro, interrupting] What were they asked?

[Suarez] [Words indistinct]...

[Castro, interrupting] Of course, this gives Bush more power to pull the trigger, undoubtedly.

[Suarez] [Words indistinct] UN resolution.

[Castro] It was logical for him to look for that support previously. It was almost certain that he would get it.

[Suarez] Commander, do you think that the role of Western Europe could also have an effect?

[Castro] Well, it has started to lose its effect in the events because it was pulled by the United States throughout the process and the process focused on war from the beginning. This was what we were opposed to. Of course, we resolutely condemned the invasion of Kuwait, the annexation, the hostages, and all those things. What we were saying was that the entire approach inevitably led to war and that that was not the path to the solution of the problem; especially the cruel medicine and food blockade implemented which turns millions of people into hostages. This has had a negative effect in the process inasmuch as, faced with such positions, Iraq's attitude has been more and more obstinate in the search for a solution.

So, of course, the chances of a war breaking out are great but we should not completely rule out the possibility that they can be reduced as a result of Perez de Cuellar's trip to Baghdad. This is the last thing that could and should be done. It is important that the trip takes place.

[Suarez] The French are making efforts, they are proposing an international meeting on the Middle East is another one of the [words indistinct] at this time.

[Castro] There are a lot of variations and many proposals. All those would have to be carried out through the UN Security Council. The United States achieved an

automatic majority of nine. With nine votes, it blocked the proposal made by the group of four countries made in favor of a peace formula. Four countries voted in favor. China and France abstained. I believe they voted against the postponement [word as heard] in the last round of votes. They were able to get nine votes, an automatic majority, and with that automatic majority they blocked the proposal made by Cuba and the rest of the countries.

In a way it proposed what it is being done now. We were suggesting, however, that it be done a month earlier and not four days before the 15 December [as heard] fatal deadline.

[Suarez] Commander, out of the three mediating efforts being carried out at this time—the French efforts, the efforts made by some Arab countries—and the efforts made by Perez de Cuellar...

[Castro, interrupting] The most important efforts are the ones being made by Perez de Cuellar.

[Suarez] Are you confident that the efforts made by Perez de Cuellar are....

[Castro, interrupting] Well, they are the ones with more weight because of his post in the United Nations and because they respond to the feeling and wishes of a large number of UN member countries, to the need of the world. Nobody can predict how war will be. War will depend a lot on what each one will do, on who will do the right thing or who will be mistaken. It will depend on the hits and misses of the Iranians [as heard] and the hits and misses of the attackers. A lot will depend on this and I do not want to speculate because of this. The Iraqis may have the means to guarantee a relatively long resistance. A relatively long resistance would not be the ideal thing for the Yankees. Of course, these are not the same conditions in which the Vietnam War and the Korean War were waged. Those attacked countries had a rear guard. Iraq does not have it today.

The events that led to the crisis isolated Iraq quite a bit and weakened its position from the legal and political standpoint. I have my views on this and I have expressed them publicly. This is not the time to discuss them. Unquestionably, a very unfavorable situation was created because these things allowed the United States to organize a great military coalition, a political coalition which includes Arab, Moslem countries, etc. So, the conditions were not ideal for such a crisis.

Of course, they acted with their own logic. They say it is not fair because the United States invades Grenada and Panama, and Israel invades and occupies Arab territories and nothing happens. Palestinians die every day and nothing happens. They cling to that logic and way of thinking. They refer to historic reasons.

This is a fundamentally political problem, however. One has to analyze the facts. One has to look at the political point of view, not even the legal point of view, but the political point of view needs to be examined. One has to see if the act is correct or incorrect from the political point of view, whether it is correct or incorrect.

They have stuck firmly to their positions, they have maintained inflexible positions. Based on their [words indistinct] one can build a very realistic political and argument with good logic. They use a different logic. This is what makes it difficult to persuade them that they need to make their position more flexible. This is precisely what we were saying to eliminate all these possibilities, these advantages that the United States has been given in its [words indistinct] venture.

The U.S. has authorized [words indistinct] has authorized [words indistinct], 400,000 soldiers, thousands of planes, NATO. In general I believe that politically it is incorrect to create such a situation.

[Suarez] Commander, did you believe beforehand that the Baker-'Aziz meeting was a mere formality or did you have a degree of optimism?

[Castro] There was a certain cleverness on the part of the United States on this. The day after the [UN] resolution was approved, they immediately talked about a dialogue, but a dialogue for later, for a certain date. The talks turned into a formal matter a few days before the fatal deadline.

Perez de Cuellar is making these efforts at this time. Those efforts could make a contribution. It is impossible to predict. There is an (?initiative), some flexibility at this time, a new position, or at least something that makes it difficult for the United States to pull the trigger. As long as there is a diplomatic effort in progress—of course it needs to be a serious effort because efforts need to be serious on these matters—as long as there is such an effort in progress, it is more difficult to pull the trigger. So, Perez de Cuellar is the last resort.

[Suarez] Commander, what about the Cuban doctors in Iraq?

[Castro] Well, the Cuban doctors were in a very special situation. The Cuban doctors.... [changes thought] There were some sports and other specialists there. A doctor is what is needed the most in a country that all of a sudden was going to be left without medicines, a country that is so involved in a war. From the moral standpoint it was terrible to tell the doctors to leave. Morally, it was an extremely unpleasant and painful action to take. I believe that our country could not do that and our doctors did not want to do that.

All this was analyzed and discussed with them. They have had an extraordinary attitude from the beginning and have said they will remain in their posts. They are in hospitals. They are not in military hospitals. They are in civil hospitals providing services to children, women, old people, and the population in general. Most of them are nurses. The vast majority of them are nurses. They are writing a great page of heroism. They have not hesitated.

They are there at the hospitals with the people. They are willing to run the risks. This is a truly admirable attitude but, could we expect something different of a Cuban doctor, of a Cuban revolutionary at this time? We could not expect anything else other than what they did.

They are aware of the risks they are running. We are very aware of the risks they are running. All possible measures have been taken. Analysis and plans have been made, security measures have been taken, plans have been made on what they should do in each case, even the means the personnel have in the event a chemical weapon is used. Of course, if nuclear weapons are used, if those savages decide to launch nuclear weapons against the population, obviously our doctors and our nurses are running risks there. There was no other choice for them as health professionals or as revolutionaries or for our country as a revolutionary country.

That aid has been given as a donation for many years. Since war broke.... [changes thought] There was a group of people who worked there but the government paid for it. Since the war broke out, we thought that since two countries were at war, it was unpleasant to have medical staff receive pay in the middle of a war. The decision was made that this medical assistance be given as a donation during the period of time in which they were in war. Our people treated many Iraqi and Iranian people. Our doctors and nurses treated many wounded Iranian people in the hospitals. They provided free services. That situation continued until this crisis was created. So, our medical staff worked there as in most of the countries it works—Nicaragua, Angola, and other places. It works for free. This is our doctors' situation there.

As you know, they are committed to their mission. What would their future life be like if they had to leave? If they left, they would keep thinking about their patients. I believe a doctor needs to be besides his patients and if he has to die, he dies next to his patient. This is the only ethical, revolutionary, and just position they can have.

This is also why we have so much authority in this entire conflict. [For this reason] we have been perhaps the ones to talk to the Iraqis with the clearness nobody has shown to them. We have expressed our points of view and our opinions to prevent the situation from getting to this point and [letting them know] that the country can be subjected to a war in which it suffers an enormous destruction. The possible loss of human lives is painful.

In addition, this could have a great effect in the economy of the Third World. Nobody knows what is going to happen with oil. One cannot guarantee what is going to happen and cannot guarantee what is not going to happen. One cannot guarantee that all the wells are going to burn but one cannot guarantee that all the oil wells are not going to burn. This is a real possibility. There could even be an ecologic disaster there if those wells begin to burn.

Castro Attends Jose Marti Contingent Anniversary

FL1201034091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended the event marking the second anniversary of the Jose Marti Contingent. This took place at the Geraldo Abreu Fontan Workers' Social Center in Havana. Contingent Chief Jose Loyola read a report summarizing the arduous work performed by the 290 members of this force, first as internationalists in the Nicaraguan region of Bluefields and later on tasks assigned to them in Cuba, mainly the construction of various projects at the Olympic Stadium being built for the Pan-American Games.

Lazaro Sandoval, the most outstanding worker at the stadium, read the contingent's pledge to Fidel and gave the commander a certificate, a photo album, and a videocassette containing photos and pictures of the past work of this construction group. The commander in chief gave the 23 August Medal to 10 outstanding women workers, and certificates of recognition to five founders of the Jose Marti Contingent.

Further on Statement

FL1201140091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] To safeguard the revolution, to strengthen it, and to lead it forward on to victory is the most important internationalist mission that our people can achieve. This is what Cuban Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said when summarizing the ceremony marking the second anniversary of the Jose Marti Contingent of the internationalist construction group.

The Central Committee first secretary stated that the country is proud to rely on builders such as these who are willing to fulfill with any duty that is entrusted to them by the revolution and to meet the desired quality requirements.

Castro said: We are not a feeble or weak revolution, but a strong revolution made of cement, made of rock and steel.

Right now, the Jose Marti Contingent is carrying out outstanding work at the Olympic Stadium being built for the Pan-American Games.

Castro informed Jose Marti Contingent members that during a chat he held the previous evening with distinguished visitors, he had told them: There were some who believed that Cuba would experience the same thing that others experienced in some other places. He also noted: They are very wrong. What a difference. Castro asserted: Our people cannot be bought.

Castro Meets Mozambican Government Delegation

FL1201143091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has held a meeting with a delegation from the People's Republic of Mozambique. The delegation visited Cuba to discuss the domestic difficulties caused by Mozambican students on the Isle of Youth.

During the talks, the Mozambican delegation gave a detailed explanation of the incidents. In addition, the Mozambican delegation thanked Cuba for the measures it adopted in view of the incidents caused by a group of Mozambican students. The delegation also reasserted the Mozambican Government's decision to continue sending students to study in Cuba.

Moreover, Cuba expressed its desire to continue strengthening friendship and cooperation ties with the People's Republic of Mozambique, a country with which Cuba maintains friendly ties.

Vice Minister Terry Discusses AIDS Program

FL1101192591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1347 GMT 11 Jan 91

["Text" of interview with Dr. Hector Terry, public health vice minister, by journalist Rosa Maria Fernandez; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Fernandez] This is the sixth AIDS treatment center that has opened in Cuba. In addition to being an important event, what impact does it have on health education?

[Terry] I would say that the opening of an AIDS hospital in Guantanamo Province will make the people more aware [of the issue]. It is our intention to open similar centers throughout the country so that each province may treat its own AIDS patients. When treatment centers are located far away, as has been the case of the units in Havana, people tend to forget that this is a very real problem. They forget this problem which, although it may go unnoticed, still exists. Therefore, I believe that the opening of an installation of this nature in Guantanamo should make everyone ponder on and be better acquainted with the issue. This will also allow the people to periodically carry out activities, similar to those being currently carried out in other hospitals throughout the country, in which AIDS patients participate, to halt the spread of the disease and to make everyone focus on this issue, particularly youths who are more exposed to contracting this disease.

[Fernandez] It is well known that our country faces many limitations. What efforts is the revolution making to continue offering the same level of assistance it currently gives to AIDS victims?

[Terry] Well, we continue to have the same level of assistance as in previous years. Despite the current situation, our government has established clear rules in this regard. [Words indistinct] possibility to have access to the necessary medicine, which is very expensive. Medicine for the treatment of AIDS is very expensive and it is imported. We spend between $6,000 and $8,000 per year in medicine on each AIDS patient.

[Fernandez] Is this cost strictly in dollars?

[Terry] Yes, yes, in dollars. This only comprises expenses in terms of medicine. It does not include hospital equipment or other costs. This is strictly on medicine costs. Therefore, imagine what will be the impact on the national health service and the national budget if AIDS surpasses our estimates. In view of this, we must continue struggling against this problem through all means available [passage indistinct] granting the very best treatment to our patients in line with the public health principles upheld by the revolution even before the victory of the insurrection.

[Fernandez] Based on the research being carried out in Cuba, could you tell me the number of AIDS victims and the work that is being carried out by the laboratories?

[Terry] Well, by the end of 1990 we had conducted a total of 9.34 million tests since the start of the program in 1986. We conducted about 3 million tests in 1990. From this overall figure and until yesterday, we have reported a total of 528 AIDS virus carriers. Of these 528 carriers, 42 have already died, but there are 28 individuals who are infected with the AIDS virus.

Therefore, we continue to monitor all AIDS cases; to record all clinical cases that are reported to our health institutions, that is, to all hospitals such as gynecological-obstetrics centers. We monitor women who are in the first trimester of their pregnancy, people in prisons, all Cuban personnel arriving from abroad where they have been serving for a long time; and, other personnel related with tourism, etc. This is because tourism personnel are more exposed to AIDS, not because tourists are infected but because if this person engages in sexual relations with unidentified individuals, this person may contract the disease. It is not that tourists have AIDS. Therefore, if normal work relations are maintained between workers with [words indistinct] consumers in our country, no problems should arise.

We are working with these main groups and with the venereal disease group. Experience shows that venereal disease victims are more apt to become another zero positive case. Therefore, if an individual suffers from a venereal disease such as gonorrhea, syphilis, etc.; there is a great possibility that he is also an AIDS virus carrier. This means that we must combat AIDS, or any other similar disease, in a comprehensive way if we are to decrease the spread of venereal diseases.

[Fernandez] I believe that the people are also interested in the steps that international and Cuban science is making to counteract the spread of the illness and of the AIDS virus.

[Terry] Well, Cuban health centers, not only public health centers but others as well, are carrying out research programs to seek therapeutic and preventive methods, such as an AIDS vaccine.

We are taking serious steps in this regard and we hope we can obtain results. These may not be achieved in the short-term, however. This shows that Cuba has a scientific potential which has devoted its efforts to this important activity.

[Fernandez] Could you give us any other related information on what scientists from other parts of the world are doing in this regard?

[Terry] Right now, scientists are mainly working on the search for vaccines and medicine. There are new medicines which have not yielded great results. (Zidotimidine), that is, AZT continues to be the best medicine. We have read in the latest [passage indistinct] have been able to develop a medicine called (Neglicine) [passage indistinct]. We have to have more information on this. It seems that the first tests made abroad have been successful. Therefore, we are trying to make contacts to see what are our possibilities.

There are many groups working on the development of vaccines such as the Americans, the French, and the Belgians. All of them are working on some research vaccine projects but we cannot see any promising results in the short-term. [passage omitted]

Matanzas Holds Assembly, Reelects Alvarez

FL1401140091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Matanzas Province has closed its provincial assembly for assessment and renewal with the election of its executive bureau. Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], was confirmed in his post as first secretary of Matanzas Province executive bureau.

The assembly centered its attention on the food program, its current situation and prospects. Representatives from several organizations and companies involved in the development of the food program informed the assembly on important undertakings carried out in this sector.

The assembly also reviewed the situation in over 600 labor centers in charge of designated areas for self-sufficency. The delegates also discussed tourism development and the situation in the hydrocarbon sector.

The Matanzas provincial assembly was headed by Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Jorge Risquet Valdes; and by Carlos Aldana, PCC Central Committee Secretariat member; and Julian Rizo Alvarez, Politburo alternate member.

Soviet Cooperation in Mining Construction Noted

FL1101155591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Soviet cooperation for the Castellanos mining complex under construction in Minas de Matahambre, Pinar del Rio, grew by almost 21 million rubles in 1990 between resources and material.

Engineer Pedro Cruz Sainz, main financial expert of the project, explained that the supplies represent 75 percent of those ordered. More resources are in Cuban ports.

Some 17 Soviet specialists are giving advise on the conditioning of several important areas of that complex which is basically using Soviet technology.

Cruz explained that the project's nine-month delay is due to the hold up in the delivery of some prefabricated components and construction materials by Cuban enterprises and initial delays in the arrival of Soviet supplies.

Havana-Cienfuegos-Toronto Route Established

FL1201193091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1506 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] A new flight route—Havana-Cienfuegos, Cienfuegos-Toronto, Canada, and back—has been established to promote tourism.

The third Cuban tourist development center now gives a better travel connection option for foreign tourists with these flights, which will take place every Friday. A TU-154 [Tupolev 154] Cubana de Aviacion plane will be used on these flights which will also promote domestic flights from Havana to Cienfuegos. Plane tickets cost 20 pesos.

Also, the German ship (?Miss) Berlin, which is on its Grand Cayman-Key West [as heard] route, arrived here today. This is the first German ship to include Cienfuegos Province in its itinerary. Both of these activities promote the development of tourism in Cienfuegos, the Pearl of the South.

Dominican Republic

Refinery Guarantees One-Month Petroleum Supply

FL1101193091 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Station commentary entitled: "A Very Prudent Measure"]

[Text] Today's local press reports that in view of a possible conflict in the Persian Gulf, the Dominican Republic Oil Refinery has accumulated a sufficient oil supply to last at least one month.

It is very possible that war will indeed break out in the Persian Gulf area. Moreover, if war does break out in this region, it is very likely that there will be oil shortages

and a sharp increase in oil prices. Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn is unmoved. He is unyielding in his position while he continues to occupy Kuwait in open defiance of UN resolutions.

Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and all the emirates located in the Persian Gulf area are the world's top oil producers. A normal flow of international oil supply depends on a normal trade situation in this region of the world.

In view of the prudent, wise, and valuable measures adopted by the Dominican Republic Oil Refinery, our country should not be affected seriously by a Persian Gulf conflict, particularly regarding oil supply.

Although we are all well aware that we are consuming highly expensive oil and oil byproducts because of the current situation in the Persian Gulf, it is encouraging to see that the necessary safeguards are being adopted so that we will not experience an oil shortage over a prudent period of time. We welcome this decision.

Grenada

Country To Return to OECS Court 'Soon'

FL1101130591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1154 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Jan 11, CANA—Grenada will return to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' [OECS] Supreme Court "soon," according to Attorney General Dr. Francis Alexis. He reported that a Grenada delegation will be visiting England in the next week to negotiate the country's return to the Privy Council and the OECS court system. He gave no specific dates. The delegation will include Dr. Alexis, who is also Grenada's minister of legal affairs.

Grenada was pulled out of the OECS Supreme Court and Privy Council by the leftist People's Revolutionary government in 1979. The pledge to return Grenada to the OECS system was made as far back as 1984, but the move was delayed until the end of the trial of former Army and government officials in connection with the killing of leftist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a 1983 palace coup.

In 1986, then attorney general, Ben Jones, wrote to the OECS court seeking Grenada's return to the system but in a letter of reply OECS officials said they will not allow Grenada to return until the case is finished. When contacted today, acting director of public prosecutions, Velma Hylton said "as soon as the verdict is given" in the Bishop appeal case, Grenada can return to the OECS court.

Haiti

President-Elect Aristide Outlines Tasks, Goals

PA1401015591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1329 GMT 13 Jan 91

[By Jacqueline Telemaque]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The residents of some Port-au-Prince towns had the privilege of watching the movement of armored vehicles from the National Palace toward the military field located on the Freres Route. This action is the implementation of a decision announced by a top-ranking officer one week ago.

Along the Delmas Highway, which the convoy of armored vehicles used to reach its destination, onlookers said, "We should have set them on fire because we do not need them." This statement reflects the prevailing sentiment among the people toward the military in an atmosphere of uncertainty and rumors.

It is within this context that President-elect Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide—winner of the 16 December elections—broke his silence to explain his ideas and at the same time dispel doubts regarding his government's leanings. For that purpose, he chose foreign reporters, with whom he met in small groups. There are numerous concerns, and the first task concerns the uprooting, "dechouquage" [mob violence], and Haiti's negative image abroad.

Aristide waited 48 hours after the uprooting began before he condemned the storming of the Apostolic Nunciature and the Episcopal Conference and the burning of the old cathedral, which was reduced to cinder. Many people said the president-elect's words of condemnation had come belatedly. The more prevalent view is that Aristide had planned the threat of a popular uprising against the Armed Forces in order to arrest the chief leaders of the failed coup attempt. A hotel belonging to Claude Raymond, held responsible for the massacre that took place after the foiled elections on 29 November 1987, is located in the Delmas 31 neighborood and it is here that most of the Macoutes and the Duvalierst military had gathered. The people of Port-au-Prince are aware of the danger those armed Macoutes pose.

On this matter, Aristide told NOTIMEX that "there are armed men and women in our society and they are using those weapons against unarmed people." "When those that are unarmed stand firm on the ground with their bare hands, in a spirit of solidarity, facing gun-toting individuals, they are crystalizing a divine power to restore justice and democracy," he noted.

Aristide spoke of "legitimate defense" to explain the attempts by the Haitian people to take justice into their own hands. "The people stood up in active nonviolence, in an action of legitimate defense. When one sees the

people burning them (the Macoutes), one must understand what is happening and what is meant by that action. It is impunity that begets the crumbling of society, where gun-toting people do not let unarmed peole exercise their rights," he remarked.

He felt that this phenomenon has to be regarded as a prolongation of the big demonstration that took place on 17 December in this city, one day following his electoral victory. "We saw it;" he noted, "there was an eruption of force in a people without weapons. It was nonviolent, and despite that, it was such a powerful force that it succeeded in establishing a correlation of forces. As a result, the police are part of that correlation of forces, and we also have the force of people who bear arms and the force of a people who do not."

Political observers understand the Army's role and the importance of that institution in the fledgling democratic process within the Haitian context. Ranking officers and some retired officers have been branded as accomplices of the coup attempt spearheaded by Roger Lafontant.

The insistence on the part of the president-elect to talk of an alliance between the people and the Army cannot hide the fragile balance that exists within the military institution and that sooner of later the military will feel affected by the profound changes. The Army does not yet share the idea of changing. That is why Aristide spoke of a "process that will gradually do away with impunity. Roger Lafontant's arrest by the Army falls within that process."

However, he voiced his concern because "a group of armed Macoutes (Duvalierists) are still there in Delmas 31. Some of (Lafontant's) accomplices are hiding and others are moving about. The process consists of trying to use justice to keep those terrorists, those fascists, from undermining the foundations of democracy."

On foreign policy matters, Aristide said that relations with the United States are source of concern. The U.S. Embassy here does not have an unanimous opinion regarding the foreign policy to be followed within the present context, according to analysts. He said, "There may be feelings of concerns in certain sectors of the international public, and (it is up to) the chief actor, the people of Haiti, to continue understanding democratic participation and demanding justice for all."

Aristide insisted that "we must prove that we can inspire confidence in those who want to understand us, to show that we can prove with deeds we are ready to die for democracy." "That is the lesson the people showed with their protests against Lafontant's attempted coup. As for us, there is no concern about relations with Washington, and on their part, they will stop being concerned when they see how the process unfolds."

The Haitian president-elect postponed two trips abroad owing to the coup attempt. One trip was to Venezuela and the other to the United States. Caracas sent a delegation to this city to conduct a "working visit," and Aristide indicated that he hoped to have "privileged relations" (with Venezuela).

He added that "it is a joy to see how two peoples can help each other continue a historical Latin American tradition," and recalled that Haiti, which won independence in 1804, helped liberator Simon Bolivar.

"We will have privileged relations with all nations that address us with respect and dignity. We can can always forge close relations with all nations within the framework of mutual respect," Aristide remarked, commenting on the importance that relations with Mexico will have. As for Cuba, the president-elect said he hoped to restore relations but cautioned there is no hurry, since "diplomatic relations will certaintly be re-established between Haiti and Cuba. As far as Mr. Fidel Castro is concerned, we are prepared to tell him that our two countries are friendly." He added, "We will not confuse speed with haste. We will take the time necessary to re-establish relations. Some will say this is a slow process, and others will regard it as political wisdom. Our political wisdom will prompt us to engage in this democratic process without rushing." To define the nature of his regime, Aristide said, "When we see that everybody in Haiti has what he needs to live, as well as food, work, respect, and dignity, then we will no longer have to concern ourselves with the name that we will give that process. The name will be a secondary matter. I am talking about a Haiti where rights are respected and where there are jobs and justice for all."

Four Killed in Renewed Port-au-Prince Fighting

FL1101193091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Four people have died in Port-au-Prince this morning, adding to the 60 or so people killed in the capital in the days of violence that followed the failed coup d'etat of Roger Lafontant.

Three money changers were killed by gunfire by unknown people in Nazon. Angry because of that, the people put burning barricades in Nazon and Delmas, in upper Delmas. The police intervened, shooting several times, to clear the road. Most of the stores in upper Delmas and downtown have closed their doors. There were reports of some panic. [passage omitted]

There was another person killed at Lalue Supermarket, or we should say the ruins of Lalue Supermarket.

Trouillot, Foreign Minister Apologize to Nuncio

FL1101194191 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of the provisional government, Mr. Paul Christian Latortue, has expressed his regrets to the Apostolic Nuncio over the attack on the Nuncio building. Meanwhile, Provisional President

Ertha Pascal Trouillot has also condemned it, assuring the country's diplomatic missions of the protection of the authorities.

The repair of the building, which had been set afire, a building located on the heights of the capital, in Petionville, is purportedly the responsibility of the Haitian Government, according to an employee of the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Self-Proclaimed Leader of Majority Arrested

FL1101150591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Having been rescued by police from a bathroom where he was hiding while a mob ransacked his house in Petionville, Serge Beaulieu, program director of Radio Liberte and self-proclaimed leader of the national majority, has since 7 January been detained at Casernes de Petionville [military barracks in Petionville]. The man who put the blame on the directors of private radio stations [for carrying Lafontant's call to rebellion] during his broadcasts, and even called himself the leader of the national majority, had a narrow escape. The new wrinkles on his face tell the story. Although he says he does not fear Pere Lebrun torture—necklacing—nevertheless, he does not seem too anxious to face the Haitian people.

His rhetoric has not changed. He denies, however, all participation in the bid for power by Roger Lafontant. His proof of this is that his radio station did not broadcast the message by the former Tontons Macoutes chief from the National Palace. As a responsible leader he sent apologies to the Apostolic Nuncio, following the fire at the Nuncio's residence in Petionville.

There is something bad inside of me, he acknowledges, my message does not come across. If security is established, I could resume my broadcasts, states Serge Bealieu. He does not understand what charge he should have to defend himself against in court.

As we were leaving, Commander Neptune told us that Serge Beaulieu, who issued by hue and cry the call to rebellion, is definitely under arrest.

Army Calls on People To Return Firearms

FL1101194591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Through a communique issued by the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] on 10 January, the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area reminds people that according to Article 1 of the 23 May 1989 decree the FADH has a monopoly on making, importing, exporting, using and holding war weapons and all other kinds of war materiel. Thus, they are responsible for controlling all firearms and ammunition related to these arms as well as all other kinds of machines that can destroy lives in the country.

Moreover, Article 9 of the same decree states that—the FADH communique continues—if somebody wants to have firearms and other munitions within his house, he must get a license or an authorization from the FADH.

Consequently, the Military Department is urging all the people who have recovered firearms during street demonstrations to bring them back to the closest police station as quickly as possible.

These arms can represent a serious danger not only to the people who hold them without knowing how to use them but also to the members of their families and to the population in general. The people who return arms need not fear: They will not be arrested or prosecuted. [passage omitted]

FNCD Representative Urges People to Vigilance

FL1101202591 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Evans Paul K-Plum, National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] spokesman, has made some statements on Radio Haiti denouncing some rumors suggesting that the FNCD sent people to uproot government offices. K-Plum is asking the population to remain vigilant and at the same time, offers his sympathies to the church community, victim of the population's anger since the event of 6 to 7 January.

[Begin K-Plum recording] Port-au-Prince, 10 January 1991: The FNCD takes its hat off to the Haitian people for their courage, conviction and determination in the struggle to establish democracy in Haiti. The population, along with the FNCD, had challenged the Macoutes. They provoked us and they got what they were asking for. The FNCD is asking the population to remain vigilant because there are terrorist Macoutes in uniforms, and without uniforms, who are still plotting against the country.

The FNCD offers its sympathies to the Episcopal Conference, the Apostolic Nuncio, and to all priests, sisters, businessmen, and citizens who are not the Macoutes' accomplices, but are the victims of the population's anger toward the Macoutes' attack against democracy. The FNCD is asking the population to stay mobilized and watch for slimy snakes which can slither about and then accuse you of wrongdoing. The FNCD did not send anyone to uproot any government offices. Neither President[-elect] Aristide nor the FNCD has mandated anyone to create disorder. The FNCD mandates are only valid for electoral activites. The FNCD is asking the Justice Department and the Army to take all measures to pursue all the accomplices of Lafontant's terrorist coup, the sole way to establish order in the country.

The FNCD sends also its sympathies to the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] in Delmas, whose building was burned by the terrorist macoutes. The FNCD is protesting against the brutal way in which some military men and Macoutes are acting against the

population in Cap-Haitian, in Labadie, in Jean-Rabel, and elsewhere. In Labadie, military men and Macoutes who caused the slaughter of 14 August 1988, after killing Durameau Mogene, member of Labadie Youth Movement [MJL], are still plundering the houses of militants, killing the population which was mobilized against Lafontant. They have already plundered the house of Lifet Jean-Meus, MJL board-member; they have already plundered the house of Oslin Normil, also a MJL board-member; and the house of Marc-Antoine Normil, FNCD Casec president, from the third sector, although he is lying in a La Chapelle Hospital bed, having received a bullet wound during popular demonstrations against Roger Lafontant.

The FNCD renews its solidarity with the Provisional Electoral Council and the State Council, which must make all efforts to establish a strong democracy in Haiti.

Cap-Haitian needs the population's solidarity.

The chief of the Army must take his responsibility to arrest all military Macoutes, Lafontant's accomplices. Once more, the FNCD congratulates the patriotic military for their support and security to the population.

Militants, it is time to arise. The rooster has sung that things must change! Turneb Delpe, Evans Paul K-Plum, FNCD spokesmen. Thanks. [end recording]

Cedras Rejects Alleged Lafontant Appointment

FL1101202091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Colonel Raoul Cedras [head of the Committee for Security in the 16 December Elections] advises that there has never been any question of his cooperation with Dr. Roger Lafontant. This is the colonel's reaction to the document that reportedly came from the National Palace on 7 January. [passage omitted].

Col. Cedras says he is a military man with an exemplary career in the Army and he notes the work he performed in the recent elections as sufficient proof of that fact. The document was a mere draft, and even if it was not a draft, Lafontant made this decision without Cedras' consent. [passage omitted]

St. Lucia

Gulf War Potentially Devastating to Economy

FL1101181091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1717 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Jan 11, CANA—The St. Lucia Government said on Friday that any armed conflict in the Persian Gulf would prove to be devastating to the island's economy. Compton told reporters that he would be meeting with senior members of his cabinet and other officials before issuing a formal statement on the matter on the weekend.

"The St. Lucia position overall is that we stand behind the position taken by the United Nations Security Council, that all peaceful means should be used to solve that question....," he said.

Compton noted however, that should war break out in the Gulf "the effect on countries like our own will be devastating." "We do hope that even in this eleventh hour that this situation will be peacefully resolved....," he said.

St. Lucia's Director of Finance Bernard la Corbinere said even if the multi-national force led by the United States does not engage Iraq in war over its invasion of Kuwait, the situation does not look to bright for the island's economic future. He said that higher increases for petroleum products will seriously affect the banana industry, one of the main revenue earners here.

"The banana industry may also be hit hard as the cost of petroluem based inputs such as bags and fertilizer goes up," he said.

He said while the Caribbean would become more attractive to tourists as a result of the crisis, "we have to be prepared for the adverse impact of rising fuel and related costs will have on the industry."

"The extent to which trade, both imports and exports, is affected will depend on how widespread the conflict becomes and how long it will last." The island's Chamber of Commerce of Industry and Agriculture said it would be meeting shortly to discuss the issue.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Meets With Opposition Leader Panday

FL1101213091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1916 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 11, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A N R Robinson met with opposition leader Basdeo Panday on Friday [11 January] to discuss protective measures the country should take in the event of war in the Persian Gulf. "This morning I spoke to Mr. Panday and I propose to seek to speak to (another opposition party leader Patrick) Manning ... and to representatives of other groups in the society, so as to arrive at a national consensus on measures to take to protect the population and play our part on the international scene," Robinson briefed reporters.

Hopes of averting war in the Gulf dimmed when Iraq Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz rebuffed U.S. efforts for peaceful settlement on Wednesday. During the half an hour meeting with the political leader of the United National Congress, a wide range of matters were discussed. Among these were "matters of possible economic effects, the issue of environment, and possible terrorist attacks, " Robinson said.

Also discussed were the coup attempt in Haiti this week and the military coup in Suriname last Christmas Eve. "We see eye to eye on these matters and Mr Panday has assured me his whole-hearted support for any reasonable measures the government might take in a situation of this kind which is of national concern and which requires a national response," the prime minister remarked.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself the Communist Party of Trinidad and Tobago [CPTT] has condemned what it called the "warmongering activity" of the United States Army build-up in the Persian Gulf. "The CPTT strongly condemns warmongering activity of the United States in the Gulf region. The massive military build-up by the Americans and British, in particular, has created an extremely tense situation which threatens to erupt into a most devastating conflagration," the group said in a statement.

The CPTT is not a registered political party here and has never held any political meetings or convention to announce its political leader or executive members.

NAR Facing Growing Internal Dissent From 1990

FL1101180091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1734 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Excerpt] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 11, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's ruling party has been facing growing internal dissent. At least three National Alliance for Reconstruction [NAR] parliamentarians have openly criticised the government, suggesting the resignation of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson could be the best move for the party.

"I feel (he) should resign in the best interest of the country, of the government, and the party.... The ruling party is being dealt a severe blow because of him," said former Junior Minister Eden Shand. Shand was one of two government members who recently quit and called for Robinson's resignation, the other being former Permanent Secretary Ken Butcher. Jensen Fox, a parliamentary secretary was also critical.

Their action was a blow to a party which has been under heavy fire for cutting public servants' pay and freezing a cost of living allowance. In January, the NAR reported it had appointed a sub-committee to assess whether disciplinary action should be brought against the three dissidents. Vice-chairman of the NAR, Dr. Romesh Moottoo, said the committee "will determine whether there has been a breach of the code of ethics." The investigating group is headed by General Secretary Alloy Lequay. It will hand in its report at the next executive committee meeting in late February.

Last year was a trying one for the NAR, which faced a coup in late July. The coup attempt was made by the Jamaat al Muslimeen, a radical Muslim group headed by Yasin abu Bakr. The Muslimeen, long opposing the government over the sect's squatting on state lands and the plight of the poor, on July 27 stormed Parliament and other buildings in the capital. They held Robinson, other parliamentarians, and television workers hostage for six days. A state of emergency was declared July 28 and only ended a month ago.

Within an hour of the attack on the government, looters and arsonists rampaged through Port of Spain and surrounding areas. They looted 107 businesses and burnt 43 buildings. After six days, 24 persons were dead and about 150 were injured, including Robinson and Security Minister Selwyn Richardson, both shot.

The Muslimeen surrendered and claimed they were given amnesty by acting President Emmanuel Carter during the turbulence. The Muslims now face 22 charges each including treason, murder, and kidnapping, the high court having dismissed a constitutional motion which sought their release on the basis of the claimed amnesty.

The disturbances harmed the recovering economy, slowing retail business in downtown Port of Spain, and leaving companies with millions of dollars in losses. The Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies (ATTIC) said the insurance coverege did not extend to losses incurred as a result of insurrection.

With only a 0.5 per cent drop in real output in the first half of 1990, the economy had slowed its decline for the first time in seven years. However, in the latter part of the year the oil-producer reaped a windfall because of oil price rises associated with the Persian Gulf Crisis.

A Value Added Tax (VAT) introduced early in 1990 also contributed to higher government revenues, reflecting a fiscal policy pursued during the year to reduce the overall government deficit and strengthen the tax base through more emphasis on indirect taxation. The policies also sought to increase private sector savings by reducing direct taxation, and to change the structure of production by revising the system of incentives via trade taxes. Public sector savings were to be increased by reducing expenditure outlays.

Presenting the 1991 budget in December, Finance Minister Selby Wilson was able to announce that the country, which went to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, would not be entering into a third stand-by arrangement with the Fund.

Despite the economic achievements, the Robinson administration was in trouble, losing a December by-election in a south Trinidad constituency by-election. The NAR's candidate, former Health Minister Clive Pantin, lost the seat by more than 1,000 votes to the candidate of the People's National Movement (PNM). Pantin dropped out of active politics after his by-election defeat.

1990 also saw crime remaining a major problem. The police continued a crackdown on drug dealers, as early as January making a seizure of TT [Trinidad and Tobago] 2.5 million dollars worth of drugs, and arresting four men they said were trying to transport the drugs to the U.S. Reacting to frequent appearances of drug dealers before the courts, 22 magistrates got together and took a decision to impose stiffer sentences. BWIA [British West Indies Airways], the national airline, also beefed up surveillance for drugs aboard its aircraft, stung by big fines levied by the U.S. authorities.

Between May 22 and October 24, there were six seizures of marijuana, totalling 640 pounds, from BWIA flights into New York's JFK International Airport. The drugs were met by fines totalling more than U.S. 5 million dollars on the airline. The airline is still seeking to get a reduction in the fines. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Evacuate Nationals From Israel

PA1301003091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (EFE)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat admitted today that it is getting ready to help approximately 900 Mexicans leave countries in the Middle East, especially Israel. It has also asked Mexican citizens not to travel to the region due to the risk of an armed conflict.

According to a Foreign Secretariat spokesman, who asked not to be identified, hundreds of Mexicans will need assistance in leaving countries that could be involved in the war.

The spokesman said that the Mexicans who live in Israel can be easily located, therefore it will be easy to give them the necessary aid if they want to leave that country. There are no Mexicans in Iraq, Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia, he added.

Sabar al-Jaditi, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Mexico, has said during a news conference that his country will not resort to terrorist attacks against the United States. Therefore, he saw no need for the United States to militarize its southern border with Mexico.

The Iraqi diplomat said that possibilities for diplomatic negotiations still existed and added that Iraq will not ask for moral support from other countries if war breaks out. If war is declared, the Iraqi diplomat said, the oil wells will be set on fire and Iraq, the European countries, and Japan will suffer the most.

Further on Measures

PA1301171991 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1639 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report by Juan Manuel Renteria]

[Text] It has been reported in Mexico City that the Secretariat of Foreign Relations [SRE] has taken steps to protect Mexican citizens in the Persian Gulf area.

The SRE reported that, in view of the danger of war breaking out in the Persian Gulf, some measures of the emergency plan have been implemented to protect Mexican citizens in the area. These measures include urgent evacuation operations in the event war breaks out. Paid advertisements have appeared in the mass media in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt advising Mexicans there to contact the respective embassies and consular representatives to receive assistance in the event of any eventuality.

The SRE reported that the relatives of all members of the Mexican Foreign Service in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have been repatriated. The heads of mission and diplomatic officials will remain at their posts until further notice. The SRE reiterates its call to the general public to refrain from travelling to the Middle East, adding that there are no Mexicans left in either Iraq or Kuwait.

Belize

Venezuelan President Perez To Visit 15 Jan

FL1101123891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1140 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Jan 11, CANA—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is to visit Belize next Tuesday, the government here reported. He will be making a one-day stop on his way back to Caracas after a visit to Mexico. It will be the first time a Venezuelan leader sets foot in this English-speaking country.

Perez will meet with Prime Minister George Price and then address the National Assembly in Belmopan. He will sign deals on trade and the control of drug trafficking. He will also bestow Venezuela's highest honour, the Gran Collar de Libertador, on the Governor-General, Dame Minita Gordon, the Prime Minister, George Price, and the Foreign Affairs Minister, Said Musa.

Another task is to break the ground on a sporting complex in Belize City being financed by Venezuela. The Venezuelan leader will be given the title Honourary Citizen of Belize.

Belize recently appointed its resident ambassador in Mexico as a non-resident ambassador to Venezuela.

El Salvador

FMLN To Investigate, Punish Accused Fighters

PA1201191891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0001 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on the arrest of two members of the National Army for Democracy allegedly involved in the killing of two U.S. soldiers, in El Salvador on 11 January]

[Text] We report:

1. The comrades are being investigated and if it is determined that they are responsible, they will be punished according to the disciplinary norms of our army. They will never be turned over to this country's tainted judicial system.

2. Our justice system is simpler and much more efficient and better in every sense than the state judicial system, which is being very much questioned at the national and international level. The following facts make evident this assertion:

A. The judicial system so far has been incapable of punishing the military and paramilitary elements responsible for murdering 16 priests, including one bishop.

B. Two state attorneys who were assigned the case of the Jesuit priests resigned recently because of the pressure exerted by the Armed Forces High Command to cover up for the masterminds of such a damnable crime.

C. The judicial system has been completely unable to find one single person responsible for the death of thousands of Salvadorans over the past 10 years.

3. The FMLN hereby reiterates that in the case of the U.S. soldiers, as in other cases that have taken place during the armed conflict, the FMLN will impart justice in a quick, proficient, and exemplary fashion.

FMLN
El Salvador, 11 January 1991

Rebels Refuse To Turn Over Suspects

PA1201130591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1214 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] announced last night that it will swiftly, efficaciously, and exemplarily punish two FMLN militants being held on charges of having murdered two U.S. advisers on two January, if they are found guilty of the crime.

Radio Venceremos, the official mouthpiece of the FMLN, has said that the arrested rebels will not be turned over to the tainted judicial system that operates in El Salvador.

The rebel radio station also reported that it inflicted five casualties on the Army as a result of clashes this Friday in the town of San Agustin, San Miguel Department. The rebels acknowledged that one of their fighters died in those clashes.

Meanwhile, an Army spokesman has reported that the guerrillas attacked with artillery fire Army positions at Las Guaras Bridge without yielding any casualties.

Radio Farabundo Marti Reports 2 Copters Downed

PA1101191291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Today there were clashes in various parts of the country: On the Modesto Ramirez Front, in Chalatenango, in Morazan, and in Cabanas. As the result of these clashes, the army of Alfredo Cristiani and Rene Emilio Ponce suffered 44 casualties. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] took six paramilitary elements prisoner.

In Suchitoto, in the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, two helicopters were downed and one helicopter was damaged.

Five Salvadoran Air Force officers are among the casualties. Our forces seized arms in Cabanas Department.

We want to point out that at least five officer pilots of the Salvadoran Air Force were put out of combat on 10

January in the framework of a successful local maneuver called: "Ten Years After the First Big Offensive, the Struggle for Democracy, Peace, and Demilitarization Continues."

On this occasion a Hughes-500 helicopter was downed. It crashed instantly, killing its the crew. A UH-1H was also downed, and the pilots are seriously injured. Two troopers brought in by the Air Force to the combat zone were also wounded.

Greetings to Guazapa and to the San Lorenzo Canton, Cabanas Department, where FMLN fighters inflicted 15 casualties on Military Detachment No. 2 and seized six M-14 rifles from the civil defense units in that canton. The FMLN forces there also took six paramilitary elements prisoner.

Air Force Chief Claims Morale 'Remains High'

PA1201132691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1224 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Salvadoran Air Force Commander General Rafael Villamariona has said that the morale of the Air Force remains high despite rebel attacks on aircraft, the role of which is often limited to supplying infantry troops with provisions, according to the military commander.

During this past December and the first few days of January of this year, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has used missiles and rifle fire to down approximately five aircraft operating in Usulutan, Chalatenango, San Vicente, and, this year, in Suchitoto, General Villamariona stated.

Cristiani Comments on U.S. Aid, Prosecutors

PA1201144691 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Antonio Mineros report on statements by President Alfredo Cristiani on 10 January at the Ilopango Airport—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Cristiani said today that it was expected that the U.S. Congress would unfreeze the remaining 50 percent of the U.S. military aid designated for El Salvador, because the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has continued its military actions. He pointed out, however, that this is absolutely no indication that the war will intensify.

[Reporter] "Mr. President, what are the opinions of the government and the Armed Forces regarding the U.S. Congress unfreezing the other 50 percent of the military aid?

[Cristiani] "I honestly believe that this was expected. If one quickly reviews the conditions set by the U.S. Congress for the FMLN, one would realize that it [FMLN] has complied with virtually none. What has happened is only logical."

Commenting on the resignation of two of the prosecutors in charge of the Jesuit case, Cristiani denied that it was the result of pressure from within the proceedings themselves. He added that the door to the office of the fourth criminal judge are open should these prosecutors have information that could be included in the trial.

[Cristiani] "The two prosecutors voluntarily tendered their resignations. I believe that the correct thing to do is to replace them to ensure that the proceedings continue. If these prosecutors—former prosecutors—who resigned have any specific contribution to make in the case, they can always go before the judge to provide information or help solve the case.

[Reporter] "Would the replacement of the prosecutors not somehow affect the investigation?

[Cristiani] "No. There is actually no change involved. This involves a replacement that follows the voluntary resignation of the prosecutors, I understand. They have been replaced to fill vacancies. Quite the contrary, they are being duly replaced to avoid affecting the continuation of the proceedings in this case."

Cristiani regretted the attitude of opposition political parties in not attending a meeting scheduled for yesterday. The president attributed the politicians' refusal to attend to a campaign that began yesterday.

[Reporter] "They argue that you were going to use this meeting to improve your image in the eyes of Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Carlos Salinas de Gortari. What is your opinion about this frustrated meeting?

[Cristiani] "I regret that they are already politicizing things, because the campaign is already under way. I believe such politicizing is not very healthy. I believe that they—like all Salvadorans and all segments of the population—have a duty to help attain peace. Attitudes like this are somewhat capricious and I do not think they are justified."

President Cristiani made these statements minutes before leaving for the State of Chiapas, where he will meet with the Central American presidents and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Cristiani departed the Ilopango Airport at 1530 and half an hour later he was greeted by Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana and other Mexican authorities at the airport of Tuxtla Gutierrez, site of the summit.

Jesuits Criticize Progress of Investigation

PA1301171391 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Jan 91 p 6

[Communique issued by the Society of Jesus in San Salvador; date not given]

[Text] In view of the resignations of prosecutors Sidney Blanco and Henry Campos, the Society of Jesus announces the following to the public:

The Society of Jesus to date had some relative confidence in the work of the Attorney General's Office, despite the irregularities committed by that office at the beginning of the trial (during the era of Attorney General Colorado), and the passivity and lack of personal interest shown by the current attorney general. Our confidence was based on the work of the particular prosecutors who have just resigned.

The resignation of the two prosecutors under pressure causes us to lose our relative confidence in the Attorney General's Office. It also confirms that the attorney general has abandoned the idea, if indeed he held it any time, that there were additional masterminds in the murder of the Jesuit priests of the UCA [Central American University]. That is absolutely reprehensible, since anyone reading the documentation presented during the trial can find sufficient evidence to indicate the participation of other members of the Armed Forces in both the planning and the implementation of the murder.

We believe that by its indifference to the obvious ramifications of the case, the Attorney General's Office is falling into true complicity with those who have concealed evidence or have maintained throughout the present trial. [sentence as published]

We praise the professional work of the two resigning prosecutors during their tenure in the Attorney General's Office, despite the many pressures to which they were subjected.

We announce to the public that the Society of Jesus is considering hiring attorneys to represent the families of the murdered Jesuits. In this connection, it has initiated talks with the former prosecutors, Sidney Blanco and Henry Campos, to investigate the possibilities of such representation.

Leader Questions Prosecution Organs

PA1301003891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Father Jose Maria Tojeira, Society of Jesus provincial leader for Central America, has commented on the resignation of the prosecutors involved in the Jesuits' case:

[Begin recording] [Tojeira] I think that they resigned because of their displeasure over the prosecutor general's handling of this case. We have said from the start that there are certain masterminds who have not yet surfaced in this case and that there has been no significant effort to find them.

The Moakley commission has said this: There are more soldiers behind the Jesuits' assassination and there is a group of soldiers who have placed obstacles in the path of the investigation. Not only the Moakley commission has said this: even the UN General Assembly, on 12 December, said that it regrets, based on a report presented by the special UN representative, the irregularities found in the judicial proceedings into the assassination of the rector and other members of the Central American University that occured last year as well as the lack of cooperation of certain Armed Forces sectors that have prevented a full resolution of this case and the application of punishment for the culprits of such an abominable crime. That is what the UN General Assembly said.

I believe that these prosecutors also realized that the prosecutor general has shown no interest or dares not face high-ranking officers who might be involved in the case. I believe that they probably resigned for ethical reasons. That is my opinion.

[Reporter] Father, what can we expect from the Jesuits' case in the wake of these resignations?

[Tojeira] I believe that the proceedings will continue. I also believe that there is a need to find legal mechanisms to ensure that the case will continue and improve; not so much well, [chuckles] but especially improve above all. We are already thinking about some possible ways to achieve this; we will continue to do this. We will continue to find ways to ensure that the case will move along as warranted and that there will at least be a serious attempt to deal with what we have said: There are masterminds that have not yet been punished. [end recording]

Rivera Appeals for Breakthrough

PA1301181891 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Sunday homily by San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador on 13 January—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The truth will set us free. Christ said that the truth will set us free. These words by our Divine Master sum up the tremendous challenge that our politicians and judicial system are not used to. That is why we admire the brave gesture displayed by the young prosecutors who had been assigned to the crime at the UCA [Central American University]. Their resignation opens the possibility for the Attorney General's Office to carry out its difficult mission with fresh vigor and greater credibility.

On 11 January, we made the aforementioned statement to the general prosecutor during his visit to the archbishop's residence. We must also seek the truth in the Jesuit case. We also expect to hear the truth from the political parties during the campaign prior to the March elections. We are aware that the consciousness of man represents historic energy capable of transforming our fatherland from subhuman conditions to more human conditions. These more human conditions will mean a clear option for the political solution of the conflict. [passage omitted]

Cristiani Terms Treaty 'Great Step Forward'

PA1201044491 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0305 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Report by Antonio Mineros—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] On arrival at the Ilopango Airport from Mexico, President Alfredo Cristiani described as a great step forward in Central America's development the treaty signed at the Tuxtla Gutierrez summit that was also signed by Colombia and Venezuela. The president added that he summarized the peace process in our country that was supported by all presidents present at the summit:

[Cristiani] "This was for many years a simple expression of a will, dream, or ideal of what Latin American unity should be. I believe that these are the concrete steps that will make possible the attainment of this goal. This new relationship in the area of trade and in other areas, such as the other political, cultural, education sectors among countries, which are leaving certain subregions in Latin America, are the initial steps to ensure that more sectors will join us and at a given moment have a united Latin America in search of its own development."

For the Salvadoran president the six-hour meeting between the Central American and Mexican presidents, with the participation of the OAS, United Nations, and the representatives of Venezuela and Colombia, was vitally important for the consolidation and integration of Latin American economy. This will undoubtedly be greatly beneficial for El Salvadoran, which achieved important things at this summit:

[Cristiani] "We signed the free trade draft treaty between Central America and Mexico that was also signed by Venezuela and Colombia, which will also open their markets to Salvadoran products. We will start to negotiate and implement this draft treaty to ensure that it will be fully in force in 1996.

"We also renegotiated the terms of our petroleum bill. The San Jose Pact, which includes a mechanism to finance 20 percent of the petroleum bill, was modified to include 20 percent direct financing, that is, that now we will not have to pay 100 percent of our bill, but only 80 percent and the other 20 percent remains in the Central Bank in the name of the Inter-American Development Bank to be used by the government as their contribution to projects already financed or to be financed by that bank."

President Cristiani also pointed out the support expressed by participating government for the dialogue and negotiation process that seeks the end of the armed conflict that has hit the country in the past 11 years:

[Cristiani] "The declaration says that the presidents believe that there is a need to support the peace process and reject the violence as a mechanism to obtain political advantages. They want Central America to continue its efforts to achieve stability and peace, because without them development is to a certain extent limited."

President Cristiani said that Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela approved a technical support project to analyze in the country ways to promote exports of more products toward those countries.

Venezuelan President 'Guarantees' Oil Supplies

PA1401010891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2316 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez guaranteed today that his country will supply oil to Central America, despite the eventuality of war in the Persian Gulf. President Perez made this statement while ending a two-day visit to El Salvador.

"El Salvador may rest assured that the commitments for supplying Central America are sacred, whether or not the conflicts in the Middle East are solved," said the Venezuelan president. He expressed, however, his concern for the high price of crude on the international market. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Claims Venezuelan Support

PA1301222691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2022 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran Military High Command said today that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' efforts for peace in the Salvadoran region are positive.

Defense Minister Emilio Ponce told reporters that the Venezuelan Government and Armed Forces have promised to give all their support to the Salvadoran military institution.

Carlos Andres Perez said that the negotiations between the government and the guerrillas are "on a good path" and that it is possible to attain peace in El Salvador this year.

As a friend of the peace process, Carlos Andres Perez promised to use his influence to motivate the guerrillas to give up the armed struggle and prove their willingness to attain peace.

This morning, the military high command met with the Venezuelan president in a hotel in the Salvadoran capital.

Guatemala

President-Elect Announces More Appointments

PA1201174891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1602 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President-elect Jorge Serrano announced today that the new defense minister of Guatemala will be

General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia, a young officer who is seen in civilian and military circles as a "moderate." Mendoza Garcia will replace General Juan Leonel Bolanos, who will retire "based on a presidential ruling," the Information and Press Department of the Army [DIDE] has reported. The new defense minister received his military training in the United States.

Serrano has also announced that Ricardo Mendez Ruiz will be his government minister. Mendez Ruiz has already occupied that post from 1982 to 1983, during the military regime of President General Efrain Rios Montt, which emerged from a military coup.

In referring to changes in Army structure, the president-elect said: "I have appointed military men whom I trust and who throughout the years have demonstrated loyalty to their institution and to the democratic process." The president said that he is "certain" that he will have "no problem with the military," but to the contrary, "we will work well together for the well-being of the country."

Until now, General Mendez Ruiz had been functioning as deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces [Defensa Nacional].

Serrano's changes in the military hierarchy supposedly represent moving the Armed Forces toward the defense of democracy and human rights. In Guatemala, the military has been involved in multiple violations of human rights that include mass murders, abductions, physical and psychological torture, and other things that have been denounced by private national and foreign organizations.

The new defense minister, who will be sworn in on Monday, favors dialogue with about 5,000 Guatemalan guerrillas who operate in the mountains. The Army believes that there are no more than 850 guerrillas operating in the country.

Honduras

Communique 'Regrets' Failure of U.S.-Iraqi Talks

PA1201035791 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 11 Jan 91 p 4

["Official" communique issued by the Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic in Tegucigalpa on 10 January]

[Text] The government of the Republic of Honduras—after learning about the disturbing outcome of the talks held yesterday in Geneva, Switzerland between official U.S. and Iraqi delegations that failed because of the latter's negative response—reports the following to the national and international public:

1. That the Honduran Government deeply regrets the Iraqi position of repeatedly disregarding the express mandate of the United Nations, which is demanding an immediate withdrawal from the State of Kuwait.

2. That the government of the Republic gives its unreserved support to the new attempt that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will undertake with the conviction that he will successfully establish a dialogue that will bring about points of agreement that will end the exasperating threat of war that would have unpredictable consequences for the world's people should it materialize.

Tegucigalpa, 10 January 1991
Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

Callejas Announces Planned Fuel Supply Measures

PA1201035891 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified reporters in Tegucigalpa on 10 January—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Callejas]...that 10 percent which will unquestionably affect the country because not everyone will have access to all the fuel they need. After this decision, however, we believe that with the current reserves, we have enough fuel to last up to early March. Measures will also be taken regarding the use of state vehicles. We will be ordering a larger number of government vehicles to stop circulating on alternate days. We hope this will affect up to 20 percent of the government vehicles and if war breaks out, we would halt the circulation of 50 percent of the government vehicles and take additional measures.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Callejas] First it is with Texaco. There is no problem there because instead of providing 100 percent of the supply, it would supply 90 percent and this would encourage a rationalization of consumption. As for the government vehicles, that is an internal decision. The Armed Forces have also made similar plans.

[Reporter] Regarding this decision adopted by the country's Security Council, how will it be implemented? What government agencies will be in charge of controlling this? Are the Armed Forces and the entire government and administrative structure included in these measures?

[Callejas] I reiterate that the first step, which is to reduce the supply from 100 to 90 percent, is the responsibility of the Texaco refinery and the fuel distributors. By reducing the supply, the consumption logically must decrease. As for the government sector, the Government and Economy Ministries will take the appropriate steps. For the [words indistinct] with the National Enterprise for Electric Power because 99 percent of electric power produced in the country comes from hydroelectric plants. Therefore, this is not a big problem for us. There are many small communities, however, which have many generators which use fuel and we will have to look into those situations. We will also talk with the National

Enterprise for Electric Power to see if we can reduce the consumption of electricity produced by water power so that we can sell that electric power to other Central American countries and with that revenue further mitigate the impact of the cost of petroleum.

[Reporter] When the failure of the diplomatic negotiations in Geneva was announced on 9 January, the price of petroleum began to go up. My question is, will you control the bus owners? They have said that if fuel prices increase, they will also increase their fares.

[Callejas] I want this to be very clear so that there will be no doubts. I ask you journalists to make this clear to the Honduran people. Fuel will be at its current price for up to the beginning of March if we are strict and make good use of the fuel. That is not our concern. Our concern is that the demand is high and that means that the fuel supply will not last as long despite the effort we have been making to have appropriate inventories. That would then create price problems. At this moment, the country has a good fuel supply. With some fuels, such as regular and super gasoline, we have enough supply to last until March. As for others, such as diesel and bunker oil, we have enough to last until 15 February. Therefore, we have a fuel inventory for more than a month. This means there will be no price increase. What we want to do is reduce consumption so that the current inventories will last up to the end of March.

Army Announces Upcoming Leadership Reshuffle

PA1201035691 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 2

[Communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 7 January]

[Text] The Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate reports the following to the general public:

1. In the following days and following a pre-established schedule, the following appointments and transfers of superior officers will take place:

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Infantry Colonel Lazaro Avila Soleno;

Armed Forces inspector general: Infantry Colonel Oscar Filander Armijo Ucles;

Army commander: Infantry Colonel Jose de Jesus Banegas Medina;

Navy commander: Artillery Colonel Reynaldo Andino Flores;

Public Security Forces commander: Artillery Colonel Jose Guillermo Paredes Hernandez;

Armed Forces general finance officer: Quartermaster Colonel Pedro Emilio Banegas Chavez; and

Presidential Command staff commander: Infantry Colonel Ramon Rosa Martinez Dominguez.

2. This directorate will report additional changes to the general public when these are determined by the Armed Forces Command Staff.
Tegucigalpa,
7 January 1991
Public Relations Directorate Honduran Armed Forces

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Blames Gulf Stalemate on U.S.

PA1201150791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0811 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (EFE)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has stated in this capital that it is not important who might win a war, but who will defeat peace.

Daniel Ortega, who is being accompanied by Former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, said during a news conference on 11 January that he will be in Baghdad long enough to speak with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Ortega noted that he has no specific proposals to offer.

Ortega, who on 11 January initiated his third visit to Iraq over the past three months, cautioned: The situation is getting worse and it is necessary for those who want to avoid war to act firmly. The former Nicaraguan president criticized the United States and held it responsible for a good share of the injustices that have been committed in this part of the world.

He stated: It is unrealistic to want to resolve the conflict by demanding Iraq's capitulation. The problem, Ortega added, must be treated responsibly and comprehensively to bring about a global solution and avoid war.

The Sandinist leader indicated that this conflict is one more manifestation of the North-South confrontation. We cannot ask President Saddam Husayn for more flexibility than what he has already shown, Daniel Ortega has told EFE.

Following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz made known a flexible and responsible Iraqi position, Ortega stated. He added: The intransigent position is on the other side.

The Middle East is a region filled with irregular situations and any serious proposal should take into consideration the resulting illegal situations, but the United States wants the capitulation of Iraq, Ortega stated.

Ortega accused the United States of having permitted and supported unjust situations in the region for 40 years and of having shielded Israel to allow it to disregard UN Security Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, Miguel d'Escoto said that the Nicaraguan effort in the region is not just a Latin American contribution to the solution of the Gulf crisis because, he said, in addition to Latin America, we are human beings

interested in peace and we favor a peace that benefits everyone the same. We have drafted our proposal in coordination with Europeans, Asians, and citizens from other parts of the world.

Criticizes U.S. Congress Resolution

PA1301142091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1313 GMT 13 Jan 91

["Text" of communique signed by Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra in Baghdad on 13 January]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] delegation, headed by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, which is currently in Baghdad, Iraq, hereby informs the people of Nicaragua and the international community that Commander Ortega met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 12 January, here in Baghdad. While they were engaged in broad discussion of the critical situation in Persian Gulf, the U.S. Congress debated and ultimately approved a resolution in favor of war.

At the conclusion of his meeting with President Husayn, Commander Ortega told the international press that it is unacceptable that while heads of state, political leaders, the international community, and even the people of the United States are striving for peace, and while initiatives to find a peaceful solution to the crisis are being promoted, the U.S. Congress approves a resolution permitting war, something that is in violation of international law and shows outright disrespect for the United Nations and its Security Council and the peace mission UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is conducting in Baghdad.

Commander Ortega added that the approval by the U.S. Congress of the resolution permitting war constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights [words indistinct] and an expression of total contempt for the peace efforts currently being undertaken. Since his arrival in Baghdad, Commander Ortega has met with PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, and, as previously stated, with President Husayn. At this time, efforts for peace are continuing to prevent the outbreak of war and to achieve a peaceful solution to the area conflicts.

From Baghdad, Commander Ortega calls on the international community, and especially the people of the United States, to undertake all possible efforts and actions to avoid a war that will have terrible consequences for all of mankind, inflicting sorrow and death on thousands, including U.S. citizens.

Tomorrow, 14 January, and for as many days as necessary, the FSLN delegation will continue to pursue all possible efforts and actions with the Iraqi leaders and heads of state and political leaders of the international community who are interested in contributing to a peaceful solution that will prevent war and its aftermath of sorrow for mankind.

Lacayo Notes Chamorro's Support for H. Ortega

PA1201165191 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Jan 91 p 5

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo told the ECO Television Network on 10 January that Army Commander General Humberto Ortega has President Violeta Chamorro's full support, which is why he continues to head the military.

Lacayo stated that Gen. Ortega had been of great importance in the process to stabilize and professionalize the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. "President Chamorro approved him because he envisions the EPS as she does," Lacayo said.

According to Lacayo "this fact was fundamental when the time came to consider Ortega's status as Army commander and the decision was well thought out." He added: "This is why General Ortega was not replaced."

The strongman in President Chamorro's government [Lacayo]—which began its official term on 10 January—also gave the government's position on the Army Command Staff and the missile case, now that the crisis is over.

After the ceremony in which General Ortega read the Armed Forces loyalty oath to President Chamorro, Minister Lacayo told ECO that the transshipment operation "did not have the authorization of Gen. Ortega or of other top EPS officers, who have condemned this action." There are four EPS officers and 11 Salvadoran civilians involved in this case.

The presidential minister believes that General Ortega's stand in this case "contributed greatly to professionalizing the EPS," a process that has been under great stress due to pressure from a radical UNO [National Opposition Union] sector and the Nicaraguan Resistance.

"We approve of General Ortega's decision in connection with the transfer of missiles to the FMLN guerrillas. Such a stand helps to reinforce the country's institutions," Lacayo concluded before departing with President Chamorro for the Tuxtla Gutierrez summit.

Protesters Demand H. Ortega, Lacayo Dismissals

PA1301230591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2028 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—In Managua today approximately 6,000 people, headed by Vice President Virgilio Godoy, requested the dismissal of Army Commander General Humberto Ortega and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, son-in-law of the president.

The demonstrators marched through this capital's main streets for four hours, without incidents, and confirmed their support of Chamorro, but advised her not to take refuge in the arms of the Sandinists because she has the people's support.

The march, watched by approximately 200 policemen, was headed by Virgilio Godoy, mayors, deputies, and peasants from the interior who support the government and who founded the "Let's Save Democracy" civic movement on 4 November 1990.

During the march, hundreds of former members of the now extinct "contra" demanded the freedom of 74 former combatants who were arrested for demanding that the government comply with the agreements reached on 4 May 1990 regarding land ownership, credit, and support programs to help them return to civilian life.

The demonstration ended with a political meeting 200 meters from the presidential house during which several speakers said that those who participated in the march were those who voted on 25 February for a "real change," but "not for a democracy as Antonio Lacayo and General Humberto Ortega think it should be."

President Chamorro Addresses National Assembly

PA1201014991 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1641 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro to the National Assembly in Managua—live]

[Text] National Assembly representatives, members of the three state branches, Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy, cabinet members, Armed Forces members, diplomatic corps members, special guests, Nicaraguans.

All good work has a beginning that serves both as a preparation and an introduction. The Nicaraguan people voted for a republic, but our fate was slightly different. Fate has made us live in an introductory period before we reach that great goal: the republic.

The introductory period began on 25 April 1990 and ends today. Today I begin my true presidential period which ends in 1997. In other words, what has been done up until now is only the democratic introduction to the Nicaraguan Republic, which is the palace in all Nicaraguans' dreams. We conducted our work amid conflicts, difficulties, sacrifices, some misunderstandings, and the support of most Nicaraguans. The new republic is being built according to the law and through justice, dialogue, and agreement. The firm basis of that republic is freedom.

It is not an easy task to build the humanistic palace of a democratic republic. The task not only seems difficult but almost impossible if we realize that it is being built on the remains of a dictatorship, on the destruction caused by a civil war, and on the ruins of an economic disaster.

Each person has a different idea of how to build that republic because people are free now. Since there is no war or repression, but there is safety and peace, each citizen struggles to defend his views. If we add to this the typical phenomenon of every newborn democracy—meaning the traditional attitude of some opposition parties that are not used to voicing their opinions in a civil manner but that are used to a militaristic lifestyle—we would have a better understanding of the crisis we have experienced and overcome during this introductory period. If we bear these things in mind, we will be more appreciative of the progress we have made in our journey toward that beautiful and wonderful republic.

Sowing moderation, caution, honesty, and the difficult political virtue of being patient with misunderstandings and even slander and libel, we have helped the still young tree of freedom grow without obstacles and with everlasting roots in Nicaragua.

Many would like me to be very repressive in dealing with demonstrations and activities that truly violate the law. I have tried to make reason prevail over force in this introductory stage of the republic. A good government governs and educates. As a mother, I feel a responsibility to teach while governing more strongly. We must govern while encouraging people to cultivate peace. I have decided to sow peace and not violence.

Which of these two—the use of violence or the promotion of understanding and reconciliation—helps a president strengthen the state of law? That is why—now that I come here before the National Assembly to present a report on my government's actions during the transition period—I do not intend to present a vain list of administrative achievements. I wish to leave the achievements made during the introduction to the beautiful republic—which the people asked us to build through their votes—to the judgment of the representatives of the Nicaraguan people.

Those steps are really a preparation, a foundation, and a cornerstone to strengthen the state of law, to maintain peace and justice, to promote equality among us, to prevent people from even dreaming of violating our freedom, and to imprint on us the maxim of a Mexican statesman who said: Respect for other people's rights is peace.

I believe the first and most solid step we made is the achievement of two real factors: peace and freedom. All the kilometers of roads built by the dictatorship are not worth one single human life.

My government consolidated peace, which means not only to live but to live without fear. We also made steps to guarantee a future for that peace. That is why I carried out the gradual and orderly campaign to reduce the Army. That is why I burned and burried weapons; why military bases and installations have been dismantled; why obligatory military service has been abolished; why the people have been disarmed; and why the contras have demobilized, setting a patriotic example that deserves recognition.

I want to eradicate from Nicaragua everything that smells of death and everything that smells of war. We must forget that any conflict must be solved by killing.

Every conflict can and should be solved in a civilized manner, through dialogue and mediation and through peaceful and legal means. The whole world aspires to a new millenium, whose main goal is peace. As president, my hope is that Nicaragua will be an example of that goal, achieving a republic without the roar of cannon. For many years Nicaraguans wanted to sing their national anthem without hearing that roar.

I must add something, however. If we want a model republic representing peace, we can hardly allow anyone in this country to be a war factor or trafficker in neighboring countries. We can in no way allow for weapons that we do not want in Nicaragua to be used to set neighboring countries on fire. My government vehemently condemns that serious crime. It will exert all the strength of its justice system to clear this up fully and to duly punish the military officers and their accomplices who gave or sold weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Our republic is not and cannot be an island. Nicaraguan well-being is linked to Central American well-being. We are a community of nations that can make progress only by being fraternally united in the framework of our common histories, cultures, and markets, which are increasingly interdependent and cohesive.

Another step forward made by my administration on the road to consolidatimg the republican system has been the respect shown to the independence of the authorities: The legislative branch, the judicial branch, and the electoral authorities. My administration has also worked to strengthen municipal autonomy because municipalities are fundamental cells in a republic. In Latin America, municipalities have been a very popular structure. Law-abiding regimes are built on respect for the branches of government. I think we are witnessing, like never before, the development of this kind of respect among the branches of government. This respect represents independence and permits the people to pass and implement their laws without any kind of dictatorial pressure.

Now I want to talk to you about another pillar constructed during the beginning stage of our Republic. All of you can remember the hostile way—the blockades and the strikes—in which opposition sectors greeted my government, thus endangering the embryonic development of democracy. I believe I can feel satisfied for having promoted the most efficient and humane system to not only defend democracy but also to encourage its development. This system is the National Dialogue. It was a big effort for peace. All Nicaraguans were able to speak about their ambitions and ideals.

The Economic and Social Agreement document that was signed was like an understanding among all the people. It was an example of coexistence for the world to see. If mistakes have been made in this endeavor, the patriotic duty is to improve on what we have. The effects of this effort have been healthy. We have improved the situation of peace, investments have increased, and commerce and enterprises have benefitted from this. We have reached political maturity. If we make an effort to cultivate the spirit of dialogue, the economic situation will be normalized. One road to republican normalcy is to correct injustices resulting from violations of the property rights of Nicaraguans. To make justice prevail means to check a dangerous movement of social disillusion and turn it around. Injustices create resistance and opposing interests that are difficult to defeat at the beginning, but the wheel of history is beginning to move for justice and progress.

As far as peace and economic development are concerned, one of the most important achievements of the National Dialogue was the unanimously accepted agreement that property unjustly seized should be returned or there should be compensation for that property. The Office of the General Attorney has received 6,000 property claims. Around 800 cases have been resolved already, 300 of them favorably. The wheel has begun to turn. As it moves, justice—a basic attribute of constitutional regimes—will become more effective.

The wheel of progress has also moved forward by paving the way for a new economic freedom. The first 273,473 manzanas of tillable land have been distributed to the peasants of the Nicaraguan Resistance, which my government has been assisting through the CIAV [International Commission for Support and Verification]-OAS with food, agricultural tools, zinc for roofs, and seeds. My government has made and will continue to make good on its word to these peasants despite any difficulties. In compliance with the government's program for peasants, farmers, and cattlemen, the farmers are again free to plant what they want and dispose of their products and goods. Bank loans are certainly restricted, but that is because of the great inflation handed down to us. When we manage to defeat inflation and banks become creditable abroad again, there will be more money available. This will be reinforced by the establishment of private banks.

We will continue to draw up and implement sound plans to reactivate agricultural and livestock activities. According to the commitment made at the national dialogue, my government will make every effort to carry out the privatization process smoothly by carefully organizing the state-owned enterprises earmarked for privatization to raise production and reactivate the economy, an achievement we so urgently require.

According to our governmental program, we will begin to reorganize our health system this year. It will be scientifically organized. In the important field of education, plans and curricula have been revised so that certain political doctrines will disappear from the hearts and minds of Nicaraguan youths. With this in mind, we are applying a novel education system inspired by the values of democracy, reconciliation, and peace. We will also fulfill my government's pledge to support and

develop technical education and train our young people at vocational schools through short programs and diversified training. This is why I have created the National Technological Institute [Instituto Nacional Tecnologico], which will be in charge of the national professional training system and the national technical training system. This third component of the technical training—along with primary, secondary, and higher education—will guarantee the formation of the human resources required for our country's industrial and technological development.

Honorable representatives, the return to democracy means basically that the worth of a human being again prevails over that of the state [words indistinct]. In our time, democracy is the system that not only defends but also strengthens human rights. In this transition period, I have tried to create a democratic police, now called the National Police. I have tried to establish observance of rights and laws. We are just beginning to educate people in the need to respect the police. The path leads upward. I trust the country will join me and help me transform this force and what were dark and foreboding prisons up until a short term ago. I am drawing up and studying a revolutionary transformation of the prison system.

The National Commission for Penitentiaries will keep track of the accused persons so that their cases will not be left unattended for a long time because of problems in administering justice. The commission will make the pertinent recommendations. Because of the general amnesty decreed by my government, I can confidently say that there are presently no political prisoners. The civilian inspector's office of the governor's office will ensure the professionalism of the office's members and guarantee that people's criminal reports are investigated. Professionalism and obedience to the law by members of the government ministry will be reinforced to consolidate the power of civilian authorities. Civilian delegates of the government ministry have been appointed in the various regions so that all of the departmental delegates and municipal civilian inspectors will be appointed in the early months of this year.

The governmental authorities will also continue to defend and protect the constitutional right of free transit throughout the national territory. In compliance with my government's pledge to decentralize the public administration for the benefit of all citizens, I have decided to transfer the headquarters of the Institution for Repatriation to Matagalpa—which has the largest number of demobilized contras, refugees, and repatriated people—so that the people there get closer attention. The institute's deputy director will function in Managua.

Honorable members of the Legislative Assembly: I find it beautiful and exciting to recount my government's humanistic efforts and the future goals in our republic on this date, 10 January, marked by the blood of my husband as an anniversary of freedom. Reexamining my role, I see with joy that we are trying to fulfill the ideals of my husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, who so often and with such devotion proclaimed the system that not only defends but also strengthens and honors human rights. The coincidence also takes up a public sense when we see that these steps by my government are also an effort to lay down the foundations for the fulfillment and compliance of the government plan, drafted by UNO [National Opposition Union], which is for me a sacred commitment, not partisan but patriotic.

In the midst of the resistance and the legacy of the totalitarian dictatorship, this preliminary term has laid down the foundations of democracy. We have opened a very important space for our spirits by toppling a materialist wall which had made man smaller and put him in a cave without a sky. The colors of this sky are again brilliant. Now the blue and white flag of all Nicaraguans floats above every flag of parties and classes. This is the flag of the men who love their homeland, who have faith, and who believe in God. Thank you. [applause]

FSLN To Head 5 Internal Commissions

PA1101043491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] National Assembly presidency sources told "Radio Sucesos" news last night that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will preside over five of the 16 National Assembly internal commissions. The FSLN will also be assigned five posts on internal commissions. In addition, the new National Assembly directors, elected yesterday, will set aside another five vice presidencies for the FSLN, and the FSLN will even occupy the post of first secretariat of the various commissions that are to be appointed by the directors on 11 January.

In legislative circles, among the deputies mentioned to occupy a director's post is Dr. Danilo Aguirre Solis, who will be apointed vice president of the justice commission. The new board of directors, headed by Alfredo Cesar, will meet in the morning on 11 January to assign the assembly's first tasks.

It was also learned that the other commissions to be headed by Sandinists will be the education and Atlantic Coast ethnic affairs commissions. Deputy Ray Hooker might participate in this last commission.

Humberto Ortega Comments on Size of Army

PA1101184691 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] During an improvised press conference at the end of a ceremony during which the Armed Forces swore loyalty to President Violeta Chamorro and obedience to the Constitution, General of the Army Humberto Ortega Saavedra admitted that up to last year, the Nicaraguan Army was numerically Central America's largest force. He also stated that the other countries in the region should begin to reduce their armies to be consistent with what Nicaragua has done.

General Ortega discounted that the Armed Forces would be further reduced in size over the short term; he added that such reduction cannot take place if suitable conditions are not present because there should not be more social instability.

USSR Reaction to Missile Scandal Criticized

PA1301032591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1301 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Report by Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Sandinists and leftist leaders harshly criticized the USSR today for providing the United States with information on several antiaircraft missiles sold by Nicaraguan officers to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

In late December, the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) arrested three officers and a former major, who will be investigated for the sale of 28 Soviet-made missiles to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador.

A Soviet military delegation is currently visiting the country to conduct an inventory of the surface-to-air missiles provided by the USSR to the EPS, which Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus estimates to be over 100.

Moises Hassan, a leftist deputy and former member of the first national reconstruction junta of Nicaragua, described as "unworthy" the Soviet decision to provide the United States with information on the antiaircraft missiles abandoned by the FMLN in El Salvador.

Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said the United States is "pressuring" the Violeta Chamorro government and the USSR into taking the missiles away from the EPS, whose chief, General Humberto Ortega, said "no one will take away" the missiles that belong to the institution.

Nicaraguan Trotskyist leader Bonifacio Miranda described the Soviet action on the missile case as "immoral, cynical, and hypocritical," and accused the USSR of "moving toward the right" following the process of reforms promoted in this country.

The military officers are being investigated by the EPS military courts, along with 11 Salvadoran civilians for the sale of the surface-to-air missiles, which, according to them, was done because they were motivated by "revolutionary" principles and in solidarity with the FMLN.

The Salvadoran guerrillas denied they had purchased the EPS missiles in Managua and they promised to investigate the matter.

Augusto Zamora, chief of the legal office of the foreign mininstry during the Sandinist regime, described as "shameful" the Soviet decision to provide the United States with information, which unleashed a scandal and which was taken advantage of by anti-Sandinists to call for the dismissal of General Humberto Ortega.

After the chiefs of staff were sworn in before President Violeta Chamorro last Thursday, Ortega described the Salvadoran guerrillas, who bought the missiles as "lacking consideration and principles" because with this action they were endangering the "revolutionary process and hurting the prestige of the EPS."

Cairo Manuel Lopez, deputy from the ruling National Opposition Union (UNO), said that this problem shows that the USSR is not willing to endanger its agreements signed with the White House.

Media Reaction to Changes in LA PRENSA

PA1201141191

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of selected Managua media reports on 7-9 January concerning changes in the board of directors of the pro-government newspaper LA PRENSA.

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 7 January on pages 1 and 5 carries a 1,200-word article by Xavier Reyes Alba reporting on the conclusion of the "strong infighting for the political control of the pro-government daily LA PRENSA." The article reports the resignation of newspaper editor Cristiana Chamorro, the temporary separation of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro as chairperson of the board of directors—a post which will be occupied by Cristiana for the next six years—and the appointment of Horacio Ruiz and Pablo Antonio Cuadra as editors.

The report states that this reorganization was prompted by the pressure exerted by the ultra-rightist trend of the board of directors of LA PRENSA, led by Jaime and Ana Maria Chamorro, to change the newspaper's "pro-government line." The report adds that Jaime Chamorro, deputy chairman of the board of directors, virtually took control of the newspaper during the October mayors' protests to promote "ultra-rightist positions."

The 1,200-word article concludes by quoting new editor Horacio Ruiz as saying that he will maintain the same editorial line, but that "the people want to see new things."

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 7 January broadcasts a one-minute report saying that Cristiana Chamorro "maintains control over LA PRENSA." The report further states that "the appointment of journalist Horacio Ruiz as editor will not change the editorial line" of the newspaper. According to a news pool, the report says, "both Ruiz and Jaime Chamorro support a hard line of opposition to the government."

The one-minute report refers to the internal changes in LA PRENSA as "a plot by Cristiana and her mother to maintain control over the editorial policy of the newspaper."

Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1330 GMT on 7 January carries an eight-minute interview with Horacio Ruiz. In the interview, Ruiz explained that "the board of directors of LA PRENSA met on 6 January to implement a reorganization," since President Violeta de Chamorro did not have time to perform the duties of newspaper chairperson. The interview continued with Ruiz reporting the changes on the board of directors and explaining the new and modern journalism techniques that will be implemented to make the newspaper more attractive to its readers.

Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 7 January broadcasts a one-minute report quoting LA PRENSA workers as saying that "Antonio Lacayo's meddling in the publication of LA PRENSA was the main reason for the removal of Cristiani Chamorro de Lacayo from the post of editor of the newspaper." The report added that "every afternoon, the contents of the newspaper were revised by Lacayo, who at times has censored reports critical of the Presidency Secretariat." The report concluded that the newspaper stockholders understood the need for more attractive news, as circulation had dropped, so they requested Cristiana's removal.

Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish at 0330 GMT on 8 January, from the independent "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration, carries a three-minute report on statements by Horacio Ruiz promising to distance the daily from party politics. The report quotes Ruiz as saying that Cristiana Chamorro was forced to resign because the newspaper had become too politicized and because of Cristiana's lack of experience. The three-minute report adds that Ruiz said that the newspaper will continue to support President Chamorro, but "it will try to increase its ties with UNO [National Opposition Union]."

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish on 8 January on pages 1 and 12 carries a 650-word article by Cristiana Chamorro on the internal reorganization of the newspaper. The article explains the changes on the board of directors of the newspaper and their adherence to the principles of maintaining the independent nature of the newspaper.

The report further states that the board of directors, to receive varied political and social opinions, created an editorial council of advisers "consisting of the editors, the members of the board of directors, and six honorable citizens," whose names will be announced "in the future editions." The report concluded by citing minor administrative changes.

The same newspaper on 9 January carries an 450-word editorial on the history and struggle of the newspaper for the return of the "republican system and democracy" to Nicaragua. The editorial reports the changes that took place on the board of directors and criticizes other newspaper for their erroneous reporting of the changes at LA PRENSA.

Panama

President Endara Views Consequences of Gulf War

PA1301173391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Jan 91 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has said that Panama "will regrettably suffer the consequences," together with all the other countries of the world, in the event a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

With journalists at a reception where he danced with his wife to the popular song "La Bilirrubina," Endara expressed the hope that the outbreak of an armed conflict in the Middle East can be averted.

President Endara stated that his government supports the position of the United Nations and expressed hope that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar can "prevent the chaos that will be created" by a war.

The president revealed that Panama is buying all the oil it can, given the possibility of war breaking out. This does not mean, however, that we have large oil reserves, Endara added.

President Endara "thanked God" for having such friendly countries as Ecuador and Venezuela, which would provide Panama crude oil if worse comes to worst.

The deadline given by the United Nations to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait will expire on 15 January, and if this does not happen, the use of force to achieve the aforementioned objective has been authorized.

Leslie Loaiza, Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] director, recently expressed his fear that Panama, where large U.S. interests exist, may be the target of terrorist attacks ordered by Saddam Husayn or that the country may be used as a transit point by Arab commandos who would try to launch attacks throughout the world.

Ford Comments on Intelligence Office, MLAA

PA1301194191 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Report by Homero Londono]

[Excerpt] This is Homero Londono from the Legislative Palace to report that this morning, First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, and Foreign Minister Julio Linares came to the Legislative Assembly to speak to the ad hoc committee that is studying the situation with regard to the security office that operates out of the presidential palace and which is headed by Mr. Menalco Solis.

Upon his arrival at the Legislative Assembly, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford made the following statements:

[Begin recording] [Ford] The president of the assembly wanted to meet with Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon and me with regard to the situation being reviewed by the ad hoc commission concerning the intelligence office that was established at the Presidency under the direct orders of the president.

[Reporter] Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez said this office was being used to tattle?

[Ford] I believe that we must be careful with the terms we use. What is important is that there is nothing to hide here. All the personnel who will operate in that office are included in the national budget, which was approved by the honorable Legislative Assembly. By means of a cabinet decree, the president created this office. It is a normal and common thing in all the democracies of the world, therefore I do not believe there should be any [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Are other countries involved with this office?

[Ford] I am not aware that another country is involved with this office. I am member of that commission, which receives certain reports, and I have never seen a foreigner sitting at that table.

[Reporter] You have received information. Are you free to answer questions about this security council?

[Ford] All I can say is that I belong to it. I have attended the two meetings of this security council, where the president, and especially the government and justice minister, are given information about the country's internal security. That is fundamentally the president's responsibility.

[Reporter] The Panamanian people dislike the person who heads this office. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Ford] I believe that the president has given his opinion and I must respect it.

[Reporter] The foreign minister has told us that the $84 million in U.S. aid is reportedly linked to the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement [MLAA]. If this money is not given, what will happen?

[Ford] Nothing will happen. If the foreign minister, along with the Cabinet Council, headed by the president, believe that Panama should not sign the MLAA, we are not going to take the $84 million. We are not going to exchange money for the country's stability. It will simply be up to the foreign minister to negotiate this treaty, which I do not believe is that complicated. I repeat, however, there will be no exchange of money for the country's stability and dignity. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Linares Critical of Relations With Mexico

PA1201183391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jan 91 p 13A

[Article by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares yesterday criticized the Mexican Government for not showing signs of wanting to improve diplomatic relations, while claiming that Panama has always been ready to resume contacts with that northern nation.

These statements by Linares were made in the wake of the Mexican Government's decision not to invite the Panamanian President to the Central American presidential summit. This summit's goal is to analyze regional political problems and to sign economic and trade cooperation agreements.

Linares noted that there must be a willingness—that has not existed up to now—on the part of both nations to improve relations.

Linares said that although meetings with the Mexican diplomatic mission have been "cordial and friendly," the Mexican foreign relations minister has always stated that his government's position is to continue relations at a low level.

Linares noted that Panamanian-Mexican relations are currently almost at the same level as those with Cuba.

Former National Bank Manager Rafael Arosemena is currently exiled in the Mexican diplomatic mission in Panama City. Arosemena is wanted by local judicial authorities for embezzling public funds while in that institution during the previous government.

The Panamanian Government's refusal to grant Arosemena safe-conduct has only served to further erode relations between the two nations.

Asvat Reports on Weapons, Drug Seizures

PA1101201391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Hundreds of weapons of various caliber have been confiscated by the National Police so far this year in several operations, including searches of several residences throughout the country. The police have seized AK-47 rifles, Uzi submachine guns, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, and even grenades. These weapons were being used by criminals and unauthorized civilians.

Among the weapons seized, police found many that had been lost and were used in the 5 December foiled military coup.

Ebrahim Asvat, director of the National Police, stated clearly that these operations will continue at the national level. He said that some arrests have been made.

[Begin Asvat recording] The largest number of confiscations have taken place in Area A in San Felipe, followed by Area E in Tocumen, and in the provinces of Colon and Chiriqui. Besides weapons, we have seized 1,300 rounds of ammunition of various calibers.

I would also like to report that today at 0100 there was a joint operation by the National Police, the Technical Judicial Police, and the Narcotics Division of the Customs Department. The operation netted 161 kg of cocaine aboard a vessel called the Ambassador, which was taking the drug to Miami.

We have also established patterns for controlling crime. These patterns have changed because of the changes in the government's structure. The system of government has changed. Now there is full respect for the Constitutional freedoms to which every human being is entitled. These changes have had influence in creating a somewhat irregular situation, as far as the level of crime is concerned. They require certain changes in behavior by the police and the community. To the extent that our police procedures become more effective in respecting human and constitutional rights to which everyone is entitled, our patterns will also change.

These changes require police training. We will become more effective as this training advances. [end recording]

Argentina

Military Supreme Council Sentences Rebels

PY1201163091 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Armed Forces Supreme Council has issued the appropriate resolution in the cases of military personnel who participated in the 3 December 1990 uprising.

Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, Colonel Luis Enrique Baraldini, Colonel Oscar Ricardo Vega, Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Raul Tevere, Major Hugo Reinaldo Abete, Major Pedro Edgardo Mercado, retired, and Captain Gustavo Breide Obeid were sentenced to indefinite imprisonment [a minimum of 20 years in prison; a defendant with good conduct during the last 10 years of this term may apply for a commutation of his sentence] and discharged from the Army.

The text of the ruling reads as follows:

"The Armed Forces Supreme Council decides:

"1. To sentence Colonel D. Luis Enrique Baraldini (I.D. No. 11746) to indefinite imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being responsible with others (Article 45 of the National Penal Code) as a leader of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood (Articles 688, 684, Paragraphs 1 and 2, and 686 of the Military Code of Justice), without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior (Article 515, Paragraph 5 of the Military Code of Justice). This sentence has also taken into account (in accordance with Article 54 of the Penal Code) Penal Code provisions on the crime of rebellion (Article 226 of the National Penal Code), aggravated on the terms of Article 226, Paragraph 8 of the same Penal Code.

"2. To sentence Colonel Oscar Ricardo Vega (I.D. No. 12561) to indefinite imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being responsible as a leader of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior, taking into account the Penal Code provisions on the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of the corresponding articles of the Penal Code.

"3. To sentence Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin (I.D. No. 11158) to indefinite imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being the instigator and promoter (Article 45, last part of the Penal Code) of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"4. To acquit Lieutenant Colonel Angel Daniel Leon (I.D. No. 13601) of the charges against him and to punish him with 90 days arrest for violations of discipline consisting of 'adopting a hesitant attitude incompatible with the correct procedure expected from an officer of his rank during the development of the rebellion that took place on 3 December 1990. [no closing quotation mark as published]

"5. To sentence Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Arnaldo Perez Cometto (I.D. No. 14216) to 12 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being responsible for rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, with no personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"6. To sentence Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Raul Tevere (I.D. No. 14210) to indefinite imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being responsible as a leader of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, with no personal aggravating circumstances, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"7. To sentence Major Hugo Reynaldo Abete (I.D. No. 14877) to 10 to 20 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for being responsible as a leader of the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, with no personal aggravating circumstances, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"8. To sentence Major Hector Adrian Romero Mundani (I.D. No. 14738) to 12 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for participating in the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"9. To sentence Major Esteban Horacio Rafael to 18 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for participating in the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"10. To acquit Major Horacio Linari (I.D. No. 14680) of the charges against him and order that he be suspended from his job for six months for disciplinary reasons, for staying in the barracks during the 3 December 1990 rebellion with such an attitude so as to cast doubt on his rectitude as an officer.

"11. To sentence Major Jorge Pedro Mones Ruiz (I.D. No. 14709) to 20 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for participating in the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal

aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances for past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"12. To sentence Major Ruben Enrique Miguel Fernandez (I.D. No. 14631) to 17 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for participating in the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances of past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"13. To sentence Major Osvaldo Zacarias to 12 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for participating in the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without personal aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstance of past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"14. To sentence Major Pedro Edgardo Mercado to 10 to 20 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for leading the rebellion, aggravated by the shedding of blood, without aggravating circumstances and with extenuating circumstances of past good behavior, taking into account the crime of rebellion, aggravated on the terms of articles of the Penal Code.

"15. To sentence Captain Gustavo Breide Obeid to 10 to 20 years' imprisonment and to discharge him from the Army for leading the rebellion (Article 45 of the Penal Code)."

Colonel Luis Isla Rodriguez, Armed Forces Supreme Council spokesman, said that the complete set of arguments supporting the sentences will be released to the public within the next seven days.

Editors Note: We have omitted the repetition of Penal Code articles in order to facilitate the reading of the sentence. The sentences are handwritten in the original and LA PRENSA has a copy.

Menem Rejects Possibilty of Pardons

PY1201134691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Jan 91 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday said that the seven Painted Faces [Carapintada] Army officers sentenced to a minimum of 20 years in prison for leading the December 3 bloody revolt would not receive pardons while he is in office.

Menem, who ten days ago granted pardons to two former military dictators and one former guerrilla leader jailed for scores of crimes committed during the "dirty war" of the 1970s, told the press that the ringleaders' cashiering decided on Tuesday [8 January] by the Armed Forces Supreme Council would not be lifted.

"These terms will be served," he added. "There is no chance for any pardons nor any amnesty while I am in office."

As for the rebels' responsibility for material damage caused by their uprising—still to be determined by the State Audit Board—Menem estimated that the 13 sentenced officers and those found guilty in successive trials "will have to pay for some 30 million dollars" in damages caused to state-owned property.

The head of state expressed his satisfaction with the sentences and pointed out that death sentences, as had been demanded by the military prosecutor, would have provoked negative reactions abroad.

Menem indicated that the time of Carapintadas "is over; they don't have any future either in the Armed Forces or in civilian political life."

Meanwhile, court sources announced that Judge Miguel Pons, in charge of the first part of the trial against the 112 civilians who participated in the rebellion, will hand Federal Appeals Court Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo all the files of his investigation. Moreno will use the files to prepare his accusation before the Court, which will eventually reach a sentence on those who supported and financed the mutiny.

Yesterday Moreno Ocampo forecast that considering the time it would take him and the defence to prepare their cases, the oral and public trial could start in "some two months."

For his part, Pons insisted in his demand to the Federal Police to arrest the 13 civilians accused in the case who are still at large. [passage omitted]

Naval Participation in Gulf Blockade Reported

PY1101201691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1119 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Navy destroyer Almirante Brown and its corvette Spiro which are enforcing the economic embargo against Iraq have so far checked 530 merchant ships of several countries in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

It was officially reported that the Argentine warships carried out control operations on ships of the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Philippines, Malta, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Liberia, the United States, Japan, Taiwan, and other countries.

The Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces Joint Staff reported in a communique that the ships carried out patrol operations in coordination with ships of other countries in some sectors of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to enforce the blockade imposed by the UN resolution.

It was also reported that if there is a prolonged conflict, the Argentine Government plans to replace the missile

ships with other similar ships such as the destroyer La Argentina of the Meko-360 type and the corvette Rosales of the Meko-140 type.

Minister Sends Letter on Investment Delays

PY1101152091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2047 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (TELAM)—The Economy Ministry today sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Terence Todman through Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez. The letter explained the reasons behind the delays of investment projects, which caused losses for investment companies.

The five-page document explains the situation of the following companies: Enron (oil and gas); Autolatina (vehicles); Esso (oil); Firestone and Goodyear (tires); Federal Express International (private mailing service); Bell Atlantic (telephones); and Swift-Armour (meat).

During a news conference with the U.S. ambassador, Minister Gonzalez distributed copies of the document to the media.

Referring to the Enron company, the report expresses interest in an investment project that is examining the possibility of supplying natural gas, the use of surplus natural gas, a partnership with YPF [Government Oil Deposits], and participation in the exploitation of the Loma de la Plata-Bahia Blanca oil and gas pipelines.

The letter states that talks are currently being held with the company, obviously taking into account the changes that are taking place on international markets. The letter ratifies the Argentine Government's interest in this investment as long as fair trade conditions are established for the Argentine state oil company.

As for Autolatina, the Economy Ministry indicates that this company had requested a custom duty exemption for Transax, its subsidiary company. This step requires that the goods to be imported must comply with the conditions established by Decrees 964 and 527, which require that technical reports and consultations be made with national manufacturers.

The letter clarifies that the Argentine Government's goodwill toward facilitating investments in the country has allowed an extension of the negotiating term through Decree 1854/90 of 17 December 1990, when the procedures initiated by Transax were resumed.

As for Esso, the letter states that the delays are due to the oil deregulation process that began last 1 January and for which the government had to determine a reasonable profit margin. This factor affects not only Esso but the entire Argentine oil industry, which means that there was no discrimination against Esso.

In the case of the Firestone and Goodyear companies, the Economy Ministry states that the two companies expressed their interest in increasing their import and export quotas for car tires within the framework of free trade with Brazil, while there is another Argentine company that expressed the opposite interest.

The letter states that it is clearly the prerogative and duty of the Argentine and Brazilian Governments to determine the pace of the trade opening with the least disturbance to the market and that decisions on trade policies are not up to third parties.

As for Federal Express, the document states that this company has not been discriminated against in comparison with other companies. It also notes that although the dispositions in effect for private mail services may be questionable in terms of their convenience, they can hardly be questioned as unfair to a U.S. company.

Regarding the case of Bell Atlantic company, the letter states that there has been an absolute absence of discrimination by the Argentine Government regarding the privatization of Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], since the consortium which bought Entel includes a U.S. company, the Morgan Bank.

Finally, regarding the case of the Swift-Armour company, the letter states that the U.S. ambassador's statements regarding an alleged request for payment to grant permission for custom duty exemptions make indiscriminate charges against Argentine Government officials without giving names.

Such a denouncement, the letter states, forces us to initiate the necessary legal procedures. For this purpose we must request the names of the government officials to which you referred, the letter notes.

Cavallo Rules Out 'Diplomatic Incident'

PY1101174591 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1335 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM)—[Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today spoke to reporters as he arrived at the Olivos residence to attend a cabinet meeting.

Commenting on the Swift-Armour case, specifically on the letter sent to the Argentine Government by the U.S. ambassador, Cavallo said: I believe it was disseminated to undermine Argentine-U.S. relations, which are, and will continue to be, excellent.

Cavallo ruled out the possibility of a diplomatic incident and admitted that the State Department has endorsed the terms of the ambassador's letter. He added: We have never doubted that when an ambassador speaks he is conveying the opinion of his government.

Asked if there were biased interests behind the U.S. letter, Cavallo said: No, but there were biased interests involved in the way the letter was disseminated. He added that the reports included names that were not mentioned in the letter, a fact which annoyed President Carlos Menem. [passage omitted]

Asked if the State Department had noted that U.S. companies are having difficulties operating in Argentina and if this could undermine Argentina's foreign image, Cavallo said: The only case of corruption is that of Swift-Armour. He added that the note he received touches on other topics that are not related to corruption.

In this respect, Cavallo said: I explained to the ambassador that delays in paperwork are normal when companies request either subsidies or special treatment in order to operate in the country. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Vice President on Possible 'Catastrophic' War

PY1101125491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Government and politicians are disappointed over the recently failed U.S.-Iraqi talks to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf. Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjines has said that a war in the Persian Gulf would be catastrophic for all the countries of the world, including Bolivia.

[Begin Ossio recording] Even after this bad news on the failed meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, I think there is still some hope, given the fact that they both accepted the idea of the UN secretary general visiting Baghdad. I think we have to place our hopes on this latest chance, so that war may finally be avoided. If a war does break out in the Persian Gulf, it would affect not only Bolivia but the whole world. The effect would be more than a simple increase in fuel prices or a worsening of our unemployment problem. A war would be serious because it would affect the supply of goods that we import from many parts of the world. It would also mean that our situation would worsen, as would be the case with the rest of the world. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Discusses Budget Allocations

PY1101113091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The budgets for the education, health, and defense sectors will be granted preferential treatment this year, according to Finance Minister David Blanco. Minister Blanco, in emphasizing the importance of evaluating the 1991 general budget, reiterated that the health and education sectors will be given preferential treatment.

[Begin recording] [Blanco] The health, education, and defense sectors, as the president has noted, because they are both [as heard] related to social aspects, in terms of investments or regular expenditures. This is obviously in keeping with the restrictions imposed by the treasury, but with an emphasis on investments.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, is there any concrete foreign aid in this area?

[Blanco] Yes, we have signed agreements worth approximately $740 million for the 1991 fiscal year. We plan to use some $450 million of this aid to increase investment and job opportunities. [end recording]

COB Stoppage Ends; Situation Now Normal

PY1001172391

[Editorial report] In its regular newscast at 1100 GMT on 10 January 1991, La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish carries several reports on the "success" of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) 48-hour stoppage to protest the increase in the price of fuel.

In a two-minute item, the radio station reports: "Following the COB 48-hour stoppage, which started on 8 January to protest the increase in fuel price, the situation in the country today returned to normal."

The report continues with recorded comments by an unidentified union leader who talks about the normal functioning of urban transportation, the news that the labor minister and the leaders of Bolivian Transportation Federation will again meet today to discuss the administration of the drivers pension funds and the municipal taxes, and the fact that the COB executive board will meet at 1600 today to evaluate the stoppage and to plan strategies to support their nationwide list of demands.

In a three-minute item, the radio station reports: "All the union leaders arrested during the 8-9 January demonstrations were released today, Wednesday," and continues with recorded comments by Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco on his concern over police violence against journalist (Leonardo Quiroz) and the sanctions to be applied against those guilty of this violent repression.

In a five-minute report from Potosi, the radio station comments on the success of the stoppage, which was observed by all sectors of society except the public administration offices, Potosi television channel 11, and the banks.

The report continues with recorded comments by union leader (Alberto Choque), who appraises the stoppage.

In a two-minute report from Oruro, the radio station comments on the stoppage which, in the opinion of the local COB leaders, was a complete success and will ensure the success of further actions. The report adds that the stoppage was only partially observed because the mining sector, the municipal administration offices, the universities, and the press protested the increase in fuel price. He said that shops, the transportation sector, banks, and the public administration offices continued to function normally.

In the final item, a one-minute report from Trinidad, the radio station evaluates the relative success of the stoppage, which was observed by the Bolivian Lloyd Airline, municipal administration offices, sanitation units, universities, and some members of the media.

Talks 'Postponed Indefinitely'

PY1101130091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The national government has indefinitely suspended the negotiations with the COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] which were supposed to begin on 8 January. Labor Under Secretary Eusebio Gironda made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The date of 8 January, which was when negotiations with the COB were to begin, has been postponed indefinitely. I do not know when the COB will again be summoned. This must be decided by the ministers of economy and labor. [end recording]

Nine Labor Demonstrators Still Under Arrest

PY1101122291 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Almost 72 hours after the 48-hour strike decreed by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], nine people are still under arrest in criminal department jails. The detainees include both labor leaders and people who had nothing to do with the labor movements but were arrested during demonstrations on 8 January. The detainees still show evidence of the severe beatings they received during police suppressions. They are concerned because they have been in jail for three days despite the fact that the Constitution establishes that no one can be held longer than 48 hours. [passage omitted]

8,000 Hectares of Coca Eradicated in Regions

PY1101194491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] Peasants from Chapare and part of Yungas regions have eradicated some 8,000 hectares of coca worth approximately $300 million, which is the amount requested to implement coca replacement programs.

This information was released by the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers, when its leadership evaluated the government replacement policy implemented in 1990.

Telecommunications Ground Station To Open in Oct

PY1101233491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] Juan Carlos Torrez, Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] technical manager, told PRESENCIA that the Santa Cruz telecommunications ground station will begin operations in October 1991. The project costs $5.718 million and will be built by the French enterprise Alcatel. The project will be financed by Entel. Torrez said the contract was signed through the Credit Lyonnais Bank.

The new ground station will use the IDR-type [expansion unknown] digital technology of the International Communications Satellite (Intelsat) system, and a modern commutation system manufactured by the German Siemens company at a cost of $769,811. Both systems will provide computerized phone service systems. With this system Entel will be able to work with two satellites simultaneously.

The technical infrastructure will be 22 km from the town of La Guardia, and in principle, will have 245 international circuits.

Asked about the project's benefits, Torrez said its construction will offer an alternative for international telecommunications traffic between Bolivia and the United States, Italy, Spain, and Chile in the first place, and "through these countries, with any other one." This project will also increase the capacity of international circuits to prevent congestion when the international direct dial (IDD) system is implemented. This project will also accelerate the expansion promoted by the Automatic Telephone Cooperative (Cotas), which has already begun to implement its sixth expansion program.

Brazil

Collor Supports Proposed UN Gulf Peace Force

PY1101232091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Report by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] The Brazilian Government is willing to take part in the international peace force that has been suggested by the UN secretary general. To obtain the help, the United Nations must create the force and directly invite Brazil to take part in it. Brazilian soldiers could leave for the region on short notice because Brazil would send conscripts that joined the Armed Forces less than six months ago. These conscripts would receive special training to take part in the peace force.

Foreseeing difficulties if war really occurs, President Collor said today that the Brazilian people must be more united than ever; he call[illegible] or a resumption of negotiations for national accord and invited mayors and governors to take part in these negotiations. The president said that if they all agreed to take part, it would be like seeing all national wills meeting and forming a green and yellow group for a common effort.

At 1000 on 14 January, President Collor will chair one more meeting to evaluate measures to be adopted domestically if there is a war in the Gulf region. Several ministers, including the three military ministers, the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, the Petrobras

[Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] chairman, and the secretary for strategic matters, will also attend the meeting.

This is Brazil getting ready for war while praying for peace.

Last Brazilian Diplomats, Citizens Leave Iraq

PY1301225091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Jan (EFE)—The last diplomatic officials from the Brazilian Embassy in Iraq and four workers from a private Brazilian construction company laft Baghdad today across the Turkish border, Brazilian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel has reported.

Seven officials from the Brazilian Embassy in Baghdad and a Brazilian construction company employee arrived in Turkey on 12 January after a 16-hour car trip, and three other Brazilians arrived there today, the spokesman said.

With the withdrawal of the charge d'affaires and an administrative aide, Brazil's diplomatic representation in Iraq has been "temporarily dislodged," Pimentel said.

The withdrawal of the last group of Brazilians was delayed for a day because the construction company employees only had permission to travel by airplane, but they obtained authorization to enter Turkey through the mediation of the Turkish Embassy in Brasilia.

Pimentel stressed that the "embassy was not closed down" and that it will return to work as usual when the threat of war in the Persian Gulf has ended.

He added that an unknown number of Brazilians with dual nationality are still in Baghdad but they have not expressed a desire to leave the country.

Pimentel said the Brazilian Government decided on 10 January to withdraw nonessential diplomatic personnel from its embassies in the Persian Gulf. He also noted that a diplomat who was in Jordan will arrive in Brazil tomorrow.

Ambassador on PLO Role in Hostage Release

PY1101203791 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Jan 91 p A-11

[By unidentified special envoy to Brasilia]

[Text] The PLO headquarters is in Tunisia, but Antonio Amaral de Sampaio, the head of the Near East Department of Itamaraty who yesterday left for Tunisia, asserted that Brazil has no immediate plans to grant the status of ambassador to the PLO representative to Brazil.

In September, Itamaraty contacted the PLO when it wanted to convince Saddam Husayn's administration to release the 400 Brazilians who were being kept in Iraqi territory. When he talked to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, the night before last, Ambassador Sampaio did not divulge that he was traveling to Tunisia.

[FOLHA] Itamaraty has expressed its thanks to the PLO for its help in evacuating the Brazilians who were living in Iraq. Does that fact not make the government want to review the situation of the PLO representative in Brazil?

[Sampaio] No. In Latin America only Cuba and Nicaragua have granted ambassador status to the PLO representatives. I do not even know whether the new Nicaraguan Administration (that of President Violeta Chamorro, who was installed last year) will withdraw this concession. We will only treat the PLO representative as an ambassador when there is a Palestine state with a well-defined territory and government.

[FOLHA] Did the PLO play a really important part in the release of the Brazilians in Iraq?

[Sampaio] Yes. The PLO has prestige there.

[FOLHA] Have you planned to meet with PLO officials abroad?

[Sampaio] No.

[FOLHA] What are the instructions from Itamaraty for the personnel at the Brazilian Embassy in Baghdad?

[Sampaio] To wait patiently there.

[FOLHA] Many European embassies in Baghdad, however, are pulling out of Iraq in view a possible war.

[Sampaio] This is not true. They are leaving skeleton staff at their embassies and this is what we currently have in Iraq.

[FOLHA] I have been told that you are about to tour the Middle East.

[Sampaio] That is a lie. This is not the time to be touring that region.

International Reserves Decreased in Nov

PY1201180891 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jan 91 (Economic Section) p 1

[Text] Brasilia—Brazilian international reserves dropped by $515 million in November in relation to October's figures, with the cash balance going from $8.1 billion to $7.6 billion. A press statement reports that the reduction is due to the Central Bank's release of profit deposits and earnings and payments of principal and interest to the IMF and the World Bank. The statement says that reserves increased again in December, but it does not give figures.

Foreign Ministry To Close Several Missions

PY1201013091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has decided to close several high-level diplomatic missions abroad such as the Brazilian missions accredited at the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], the Disarmament Commission in Geneva, the International Base Products Organizations [Organizacoes Internacionais de Produtos de Base] in London, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. This measure has been adopted for economic reasons and to restrict the number of Brazilian missions.

The same measure could be adopted with the Brazilian mission at UNESCO, which has been vacant since the death of Ambassador Jose Guilherme Merquior.

Chile

Silva Cimma Notes Possible Gulf War, Cuba Ties

Weapons Will Not Be Provided

PY1101234291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said that people should remain calm because the supply of fuel will continue as normal.

Silva Cimma said that in the event of war in the Persian Gulf, Chile will not provide weapons. Silva Cimma is in Concepcion, where he will host a conference at the local university's summer school. He met with the Concepcion mayor, the dean of the law school, and Augusto Parra, rector of Concepcion University.

Comments on Oil Supply, Cuban Relations

PY1201010291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Relay from Concepcion by correspondent Mario Aravena]

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has reiterated here in Concepcion that the country can remain calm in the event that the situation in the Persian Gulf worsens. He recalled that the country has an assured oil supply for three months, and that important talks are under way with Venezuela and Mexico if the supply from Saudi Arabia falters. Saudi Arabia is currently Chile's main oil supplier. Silva Cimman said the oil supply situation will worsen only if refineries are destroyed in a war, causing serious difficulties that would force emergency measures.

He also said Chile will not send troops to the Persian Gulf, and will limit itself to humanitarian assistance if circumstances require it.

The Chilean foreign minister is visiting the Eighth Region at the invitation of the University of Concepcion. This afternoon he will deliver a lecture on Chile's reinsertion into Latin America. He said that Latin America's integration will be a reality in the short term. He recalled that agreements have already been signed with Argentina, Mexico, and Venezuela, and that progress is being made on signing agreements with Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Paraguay. He said a large common market should be created, and, in this regard, recalled talks with Bolivia on signing an agreement for the construction of a highway linking La Paz with Arica; talks between Chilean and Bolivian businessmen to establish some sort of expanded common market; and studies on the construction of a pipeline to bring Bolivian natural gas to Chile's northern regions.

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma finally announced that relations with Cuba may be reestablished sometime around the middle of 1991.

Foxley: Nation 'Ready' for Possible Gulf Crisis

PY1101143691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Persian Gulf situation will not push the country off the path of progress. This statement was made by Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley after a cabinet meeting presided over by President Aylwin.

The minister is optimistic about the future, and this optimism is based on a economic committee report. If there is a real crisis situation, however, the government will inform the population of the measures that we must adopt, Foxley said.

Alejandro Foxley insisted that the government is ready to face any contingency.

[Begin Foxley recording] The government is ready to face any crisis. I can assure the people that we will handle the impact of a conflict and its inflationary pressure. We will implement economic measures to prevent excessive pressure on our anti-inflationary program. [end recording]

Regarding the price of oil and its effect on Chile, Foxley said the country has a stabilization fund to compensate for reasonable fluctuations. We also have another mechanism to absorb the impact of strong fluctuations over brief periods, Foxley added.

The minister said we have to warn the population to be careful with our energy consumption in case of war. We will have to behave as we did during the drought [when a lack of water in reservoirs caused electricity shortages], the minister said. Gasoline saving could be made more effective if it is complemented with some driving restrictions, but all measures will be announced in time, Foxley concluded.

FPMR Claims Attacks Against U.S. Personnel

PY1301210691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1546 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, 13 Jan (EFE)—The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), autonomous faction, a Chilean terrorist group, has claimed responsibility for the attacks against some "Marines" [preceding word in English] from a U.S. aircraft carrier and U.S. Embassy personnel at a baseball field in Chile last November.

The two attacks, which were originally attributed to Israeli intelligence and then to Arab groups, were claimed for the FPMR by David Fuentes, a member of the FPMR national directorate, during an interview with the magazine PUNTO FINAL which will be published tomorrow.

"We claim responsibility for it; we will not deny something we have done," Fuentes told the leftist magazine, which is published every 15 days.

The FPMR spokesman said that the group carried out these actions to repudiate the U.S. presence in Chile and President George Bush's official visit to Chile on 6 and 7 December. "Bush clearly got the message that he was not welcome here," the leader of the Chilean subversive group said.

The first attack claimed by the FPMR took place last 4 November in the port of Valparaiso, 125 northeast of Santiago, when the terrorists planted a bomb in a restaurant which injured several "Marines" [preceding word in English] from the U.S. aircraft carrier Midway [as received].

The second terrorist attack took place on 17 November during a baseball game among U.S. Embassy officials and other foreigners on a field at the National Stadium of Santiago. A Canadian citizen died in this attack.

Fuentes also reported that the FPMR was responsible for an attack against the Museum of History in Talca, a city 258 km south of this capital. Historical documents were stolen after the museum guard was killed.

The FPMR leader states in the interview that the democratic government headed by Patricio Aylwin "is a continuation of the previous one," meaning the former military regime.

The FPMR was established in 1983 as the armed branch of the Communist Party. It split from the party in 1987 and divided into a political faction, which stopped working after the restoration of democracy, and an autonomous faction, which is continuing its armed actions.

Personnel Evacuated From Gulf Arrive in Santiago

PY1401004491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2334 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, 13 Jan (EFE)—A group of 125 Chilean diplomats and their families arrived in Santiago today from the Persian Gulf area. Returning on the orders of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, the people arrived on board a Chilean Air Force Boeing 707 coming from Tel Aviv and Cairo.

Concerned about their relatives who remained behind in the conflict zone, the new arrivals did not want to make any statements, saying only that the situation in Israel is calm "although very tense."

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official who organized the evacuation reported that the Chilean ambassadors in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, military attaches, and other diplomats still remain at their posts.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry decided to evacuate "non-essential" personnel and diplomats' relatives from the region. It was learned that 99 Chileans boarded the plane in Tel Aviv while the rest got on in Cairo.

The Foreign Ministry has said that it trusts that the diplomatic immunity of its embassies and diplomats still at post will be respected should war break out in the Persian Gulf, although additional security measures have been adopted, including the purchase of gas masks.

Pinochet's Son To Appear Before Legislators

PY1101191191 Madrid EFE in English 1815 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Santiago, Jan 11 (EFE)—A son of Chilean Army commander and former President Gen. Augusto Pinochet will appear before a parliamentary commission next week, parliamentary sources said Friday [11 January]. Deputies are investigating the payment by the Armed Forces of $3 million to Augusto Pinochet Hiriart for an arms manufacturing company.

The younger Pinochet has been summoned to appear on previous occassions, but has refused to do so. He is thought to have been persuaded to change his mind by discussions with right-wing deputy Alberto Espina.

Also appearing Tuesday will be Gen. Fernando Hormazabal Diaz, who is expected to clear up confusion over two different versions of an Army document relating to the purchase. In one, Hormozabal claims that Gen. Pinochet knew of the payment in his role as Army commander, while in a later version the relevant passage has been deleted.

The commission is due to report back to the parliament on January 22.

Colombia

Ochoa Wants Modification of Extradition Decrees

PA1301031391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0014 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Colombia [as received], 12 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Fabio Ochoa Vazquez, the first high-ranking drug leader to surrender under the provisions of Decrees 2047 and 3030, said today that the United States could "invent" [armar] crimes in order to extradite drug traffickers who turn themselves in under the two decrees.

In a letter addressed to Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel, Ochoa said that the Colombian Government must implement (and modify) the decrees in such a way as to fully guarantee that drug traffickers who submit to the new legislation are not extradited.

Meanwhile, attorney Gustavo Salazar Pineda, who was consulted by the extraditables on Decrees 2047 and 3030, said today that those documents have "loopholes and imprecisions" that leave the door of extradition open.

Ochoa said that nonextradition should be guaranteed simply by the defendants' surrender, instead of being linked to the confession of their crimes. He said if this were done, the top drug leaders would turn themselves in en masse "before the end of January."

Fabio Ochoa said that those who turn themselves in "run the high risk of having the United States, not content with our surrender, invent crimes subsequent to 5 September 1990," the date on which Decree 2047 was issued.

According to the decree, drug traffickers who commit crimes after that date will not be entitled to the freedom from extradition and reduction of penalties provided for in Decress 2047 and 3030. Decree 3030 was issued on 17 December, a day before Ochoa decided to accept the benefits offered.

The United States could bring new charges against the drug traffickers "based on the famous witnesses who resolve their own serious situation by denouncing the alleged Colombian big fish," Ochoa said in a document drafted in prison in Antioquia. The "witnesses are U.S. drug traffickers who, after informing on other lawbreakers, negotiate for their release and can continue the business undisturbed," Ochoa said.

Decrees 2047 and 3030 indicate that drug traffickers who give false confessions, conceal crimes committed after 5 September, or attempt to escape will not enjoy the guarantee against extradition.

The drug leaders feel that those conditions leave the possibility of extradition open. They have, therefore, requested guarantees that their trial will take place in Colombia as long as they turn themselves in to the authorities.

Fabio Ochoa, the youngest of the Ochoa clan, the second force of the Medellin cartel, demanded a modification of the decree so that "those who accept the provisions and voluntarily turn themselves in to the Colombian justice authorities will not be extradited for any reason."

On 10 January, President Cesar Gaviria said that Decrees 2047 and 3030 will not be modified unless their implementation so requires.

Drug 'Mini-Summit' in Cartagena Concludes

PA1101194291 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The mini-summit between Colombia and the United States on adopting joint action against drug trafficking concluded this afternoon near Cartagena. Progress was made on the standardization of laws for both nations to jointly try those involved in drug trafficking.

If the Colombian Government modifies in any way Decree 3030 [which together with Decree 2047 provides certain guarantees for drug traffickers who turn themselves in], it would only be on the point that refers to "confession," although the U.S. congressmen assembled in Cartagena did not object in any way when the Colombian Government presented the decree. Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo today referred to this when he mentioned discussion between both governments on issues that involve laws and procedures.

[Begin Giraldo recording] Fortunately, Colombian law already provides that evidence legally obtained in any case, locally or abroad, is also valid in Colombian courts. Likewise, it is possible to request—through appropriate legal documents—that a U.S. investigating official gather evidence, such as testimony or other judicial evidence. This procedure could also be carried out through the Colombian consuls. [end recording]

The U.S. congressmen departed today at 1700 from Cartagena and reportedly would be sending President Gaviria, in two weeks, a document summarizing how the new government has focused its anti-drug policy.

Main Oil Pipeline Attacked by Guerrillas

PA1301225591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2025 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 13 Jan (EFE)—Today, Colombian guerrillas dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, the country's main pipeline, while the government foiled another dynamite attack on a gas line near Bucaramanga.

The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol), the owner of the pipeline, reported that the attack was carried out on kilometer 460 of the 780 km owned by the installation.

The explosion destroyed a stretch of the pipeline in a place known as Ayacucho, near El Carmen, in Norte de Santander Department, 700 km northwest of Bogota. Ecopetrol added that the sabotage, attributed to the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), resulted in a spill of approximately 12,000 barrels and the suspension of pumping operations.

The Army's 2d Division reported that Ricaurte Battalion soldiers deactivated three dynamite charges in the Payoa pipe, which carries gas for domestic use to Bucaramanga, the capital of Santander Department. The dynamite had been placed less than two km from the Bonanza Military Base in Rionegro, near Bucaramanga. The sabotage attempt was the work of the marxist Army of National Liberation (ELN), the source added.

The Cano Limon-Covenas was dynamited three times this year and 36 times during 1990. The first attack this year was carried out on 6 January in a rural area of Cesar Department (northern Colombia) and the second, two days later, in Arauca, on the border between Boyaca and Norte de Santander Departments (eastern Colombia).

The FARC and the ELN have been involved in an intense military activity in various Colombian regions since last month when the army attacked the FARC's main camp in the mountains near the eastern plains.

1-10 Jan Guerrilla Actions Reported

PA1201191791

[Editorial Report] Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 2 January on page 1 carries a 225-word report on a clash between Colombian policemen and rebels from the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG). According to the report, the guerrillas blew up a stretch of the oil pipeline at Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca Department, on 1 January and clashes began as soon as the police discovered the rebels. As a result, "five policemen were killed and two others were wounded, including a civilian." There were also an undetermined number of rebel casualties following the clashes.

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 3 January on page 3A carries a 250-word article on clashes between Colombian policemen and guerrillas in different parts of the country. The article states that "over the past 24 hours, 27 policemen were killed and 10 others were wounded in 15 clashes with guerrillas." The police reported that the guerrillas carried out their attacks in the departments of Magdalena, Antioquia, Santander, Guajira, Cundinamarca, and Boyaca, as well as in Arauca Intendance. Police spokesmen have stated that most of the actions were jointly carried out by FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), ELN (Army of National Liberation), and EPL (Popular Liberation Army) rebels and other CNG rebel columns.

Another 400-word article on the same page states that six guerrillas were killed, two engineers were kidnapped, and two oil wells were blown up following FARC guerrilla attacks in Putumayo "within the past few hours." Four other guerrillas were killed in a counteroffensive carried out by the authorities against FARC guerrillas in Zaragoza Corregimiento, Valle del Cauca Department, on 2 January.

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0146 GMT on 4 January carries an item stating that the CNG, which is comprised of ELN and FARC guerrillas, claimed responsibility for the attacks "carried out over the past few days in retaliation for the Army's destruction of the FARC headquarters on 9 December." The CNG also claimed responsibility for the ambush carried out in Cienaga, Magdalena Department, on 2 January, in which 12 policemen were killed.

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 8 January on page 8A carries a 250-word report on clashes between Colombian police and FARC guerrillas. According to the report, the clashes took place in Putumayo, Meta Department, San Jose del Guaviare, on 7 January, and as a result, a policeman was killed and four others were wounded.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 0007 GMT on 9 January reports that ELN guerrillas attacked a stretch of the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline for the 11th time this year. In addition, FARC guerrillas destroyed oil exploration equipment in Putumayo.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 1744 GMT on 9 January reports that guerrillas attacked a police station in San Pedro de la Sierra, Magdalena Department, on 9 January. According to the newscast, "several guerrillas were killed, but the number could not be confirmed."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 10 January reports that guerrillas "blew up a radio tower, killed two soldiers, and wounded an officer and eight soldiers at the Girasol Military Base in La Macarena, Meta Department." The report adds that 15 other soldiers were kidnapped, five of whom have already been rescued. In another action, "three soldiers were killed in a clash between Rafael Reyes Battalion troops and a FARC guerrilla column."

Ecuador

Committee Calls For Support to Revolution

FL1001151591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Ecuadoran Committee for Solidarity With Cuba has made a call to close ranks with the revolution at a time in which more attacks are made and the blockade is strengthened in an attempt to isolate the island. Representatives of various political parties, popular organizations, and committee coordinator Nela Martinez participated in a rally in Quito supporting our country.

Martinez said a friendly hand needs to be extended to Cuba now more than ever. She also announced that, in response to Washington's actions against Cuba, funds are being collected in Ecuador to send us a ship loaded with oil.

Peru

Minimum Monthly Salary Rises to 38 Million Intis

PY1201145091 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Labor Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara has announced that the minimum monthly salary will be increased to 38 million intis as of this month. He made this announcement after a cabinet meeting.

[Begin recording] [Torres y Torres] The minimum salary has been set at 38 million intis. This increase represents a substantial improvement over the previous salary. It also maintains the purchasing power of lower-income workers earning the minimum salary.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Torres y Torres] Right, the increase will be retroactive to 1 January. Consequently, the new minimum salary is already in force. [end recording]

Uruguay

Bomb Destroys Car, Damages Home of Leftist Deputy

PY1201133091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1613 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Jan (EFE)—Uruguayan leftist Deputy Hugo Cores' car was destroyed by a homemade bomb today. According to a spokesman from the leftist Broad Front coalition, the third-largest political force in the country, the explosion damaged Cores' home but caused no injuries. The bomb went off at 0234 (0434 GMT) and the explosion also damaged neighboring buildings. Cores is a member of the People's Participation Movement (MPP).

The legislator said: "Judging by the way in which the attack was carried out, we can assume that the job was done by people who knew what they were doing." No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack but the police have launched an investigation.

Cores recalled that his home was also attacked approximately three months ago by someone who threw a bottle full of gasoline with a burning fuse.

Legislators from various political parties and Broad Front leaders called on Cores to express their support. The MPP is made up of Cores' party, the Party for the Victory of the People (PVP), a group of former guerrillas from the Tupamaros National Liberation Movement, the Socialist Workers Party (PST), and independents.

Lacalle, Interior Minister Condemn Attack

PY1201140091 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez has expressed his strongest repudiation of the attack that destroyed the car of Deputy Hugo Cores, promising all the necessary efforts to capture the attackers and to prevent any attempt to disturb the peace in Uruguay.

The minister said that all citizens who want to live in a climate of tolerance and peaceful coexistence share his concern and that of the government over the incident.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle also expressed his repudiation of the attack against the People's Participation Movement-Broad Front deputy, saying that the incident takes us back to 1965. The president made these remarks in Punta del Este, where he met with Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez. According to reports, the president asked the Interior Ministry to conduct a thorough police investigation to fully clarify the incident.

Energy Minister on Fuel Rationing Plans

PY1001200991 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Uruguayan Government already has plans to ration the use of fuel in case a war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

This was reported today at noon at Government House by Industry and Energy Minister Augusto Montesdeoca. He added that the plan may be implemented at any time but it will not mean restrictions on normal life in Uruguay. Our national industry will continue working normally. The minister reported that Uruguay has oil reserves that will last a little longer than 90 days. [passage indistinct]

IDB Agreements Signed for $30 Million in Loans

PY0901223091 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 30 Dec 90 p 3

[Summary] President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] President Enrique Iglesias have signed three agreements for approximately $30 million for sanitation projects in Montevideo. A period of 25 years was granted for repayment.

Weekly Suspends Publication for Economic Reasons

PY1201011691 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 3 Jan 91 p 8

[Summary] Publication of the weekly 20/21 was suspended last week due to economic problems. The paper began publication in late May 1990 under the direction of journalist Edmundo Canalda.

Venezuela

President Perez on Effects of Middle East War

PA1301135391 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1725 GMT 12 Jan 91

["Talking With the CTV" program with President Carlos Andres Perez; Cesar Olarte, secretary general of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV); other CTV leaders; and moderator Cesar Gil; at the La Casona presidential residence in Caracas; date not given; live or recorded—monitored in progress]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted, including initial portion not monitored] [Perez] Venezuela has not been a passive spectator of the world situation. We have taken an active stance. First, as an OPEC member and because this conflict broke out in a Middle East OPEC country, we tried to use our influence and sent our foreign minister to talk to the leaders of the Arab world to search for a solution to the conflict. Later, among the Nonaligned Movement countries—Iraq being a prominent member—we proposed that the organization mediate to find a peaceful solution to the problem. We held direct talks with President Bush and Western European leaders, expressed our opinions, and upheld that we firmly support the UN decisions. At the same time, we tried to reach the Iraqi leader, Saddam Husayn, an old friend of Venezuela and an old personal friend, to tell him of our concern about the developing situation.

Nevertheless, there is no reason to be optimistic at this time. I say this in all sincerity. I also want to ensure Venezuelans that all is not lost and that war can still be avoided. Unfortunately, the initiative of President Bush for a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has failed. Today, however, French President Francois Mitterrand leads a European Economic Community effort to find a solution to this conflict, and the UN secretary general, with the support of the entire world, has gone to Baghdad to offer a proposal that could lead to a solution to the crisis. So the situation before us is not promising or optimistic, but we are obliged to keep struggling to achieve peace. I am among those who believe that we will be able to start to solve the crisis before 15 January and that we will avoid this war.

The consequences of this war or conflict are very serious. Already the price of petroleum has increased to unbelievable figures on the international petroleum market. We, the Venezuelans, should be happy because we are selling our petroleum at a better price, but we are not happy. We are distressed and have good reason for this. First, the countries in the region are suffering from the impact of the high petroleum prices. The foreign debt situation of countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and even in Latin American countries that have stronger economies has gotten worse. This is not good for Venezuela. This is not good for Latin America. The first signs of a recession are starting to show in the industrialized countries, and these are the countries that set petroleum prices. This recession will later fall on our countries because the countries that control the world's economy are not going to pay the consequences of the recession. This is the most serious aspect of a recession situation, and it will surely have an entirely negative impact on our country. The surplus profits we would apparently make from higher petroleum prices would be lost because of the increased prices we would have to pay for imported manufactured and capital goods. Furthermore, the interest rates for all of Venezuela's international transactions would increase. Therefore, the future that awaits us is bad. We must completely understand this and not be happy with a temporary increase in petroleum prices.

Venezuela has acquired experience, however. We are not acting as we did in the early or mid-seventies, when we invested what we had gained from the higher petroleum prices of that time. I believe our investments were mostly good and I have never agreed with the absurd charges that I was pursuing grandiose schemes. We now have the GURI [not further identified], the aluminum works, etc. I believe that these were projects that were needed and, fortunately, now we have them.

What have we done this time? We have issued a decree that establishes a macroeconomic stabilization fund. All the money we get from prices higher than $19 per barrel and from production over 1.9 million barrels per day will be put into this fund, which will be like a savings account. This fund will enable us to confront any situation, be it the deterioration of the world economic situation because of the current crisis, or an abrupt fall in petroleum prices after the Middle East crisis ends.

I have seen and heard that the Venezuelans are experiencing great anguish due to current events. There is even talk that we are necessarily going to suffer spot shortages. This is not true. It is quite clear that the conflict is very serious and that the world economy can deteriorate. However, the flow of supplies to Venezuela, its international financial relations, and the imports to this country will not change. Prices may increase, but this will not occur immediately. The increase would be gradual and basically over the medium term. Thus, we must maintain calm and be aware that bigger problems will not arise.

Concerning the possibility of being directly involved in the conflict—if it should unfortunately explode—I say to you that Venezuela has very good relations with all the countries of the Arab world. Venezuela does not have any enemies. Groups from different Arab countries live in our country. They share our fatherland with us and receive all our affection and solidarity. Thus, Venezuela will have absolutely no direct participation in this conflict. Like many Arab countries, we support the United Nations. That is true. We cannot accept—and we have tried to get President Saddam Husayn to reflect on this—that a country like Kuwait is occupied by force. This country had been recognized by all the nations of the world for many decades. Iraq itself had accepted

Kuwait. Iraq, together with Kuwait, are OPEC members. Kuwait is also a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. If we accept a country's borders being erased by force, world stability would be destroyed, there would be international chaos, and world peace would be in serious trouble. [passage omitted]

Gulf War Impact on 1991 Oil Production Viewed

PA1101163091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0337 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 10 Jan (EFE)—A representative of the Venezuelan petroleum industry told EFE today that Venezuela cannot significantly increase its current petroleum production of 2.4 million barrels per day [bpd] if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf.

Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. (PDVSA) reached its maximum crude oil production in December and only has a margin of 100,000 bpd before reaching its current capacity limit: 2.5 million bpd.

Venezuela is the United States' second biggest supplier of petroleum after Saudi Arabia. It supplies an average of 1.2 million bpd to the U.S. market.

Both PDVSA and the Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry pointed out to EFE that Venezuela could do little to counteract the shortage of hydrocarbons resulting from an outbreak of war in the Middle East and damaged Saudi Arabian petroleum installations.

PDVSA plans to increase its current production potential to 2.96 million bpd by the end of 1991 and thus produce 2.5 million bpd in a sustained manner.

According to PDVSA's 1991 program, its increased production capacity will depend on significant investments—$2 billion—in drilling works and modernization of its infrastructure.

PDVSA will use part of its 1990 profits from petroleum exports—which total $13.5 billion, according to Energy and Mines Ministry data—to finance these investments.

Venezuela will only have the capacity to increase its petroleum production by 100,000 bpd at the end of the first half of 1991, and an additional 200,000 bpd at the end of 1991, if all the expansion programs are completed on time, according to the PDVSA.

Currently, PDVSA exports an average of 2 million bpd, while domestic consumption is almost 400,000 bpd.

According to the Energy and Mines Ministry, the Venezuelan Government's budget forecast for 1991 has been based on the conservative figures of $19 per barrel, 1.9 million bpd in petroleum exports, and $16.5 billion in revenues.

According to unofficial sources, the current average export price for Venezuelan petroleum is over $25 per barrel. On international markets, hikes of up to $60 per barrel are forecast should a war break out in the Persian Gulf.

Navy Officer Sole Survivor of Plane Crash

PA1201033591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Navy officer Jose Marino Gomez is the sole survivor of an accident involving a Navy plane bearing registration No. A-0209 that crashed with 24 people aboard between the villages of (Mucuti) and Chacanta. Our correspondent, Alfredo Aguilar, reported that the accident took place when the plane, which was covering the Maiquetia-El Vigia route, with a stoppover in Santa Barbara, was trying to make a second landing attempt but was prevented from doing so because of bad weather.

The plane was carrying relatives and friends of Sublieutenant Rafael Cortes Vivas, who was killed on 8 January when his training plane crashed in San Casimiro. The group was traveling with the body of a dead soldier to bury him in El Vigia when the fatal accident occured.

The rescue brigades, which are under the coordination of Governor Jesus Rondon, are working at the accident site to retrieve the bodies of the dead.